

PEC Minutes April 23, 2015

The Professional Educator's Council (PEC) met Thursday, April 23, at 1:00 pm in the Steen Library's Wyatt Room.

In attendance:

Dr. Adam Akerson, Dr. Carla Murgia, Ms. Carrie Williams, Dr. Chris Sams, Dr. Dale Perritt, Dr. Liz Vaughan, Ms. Hayley Gillen, Dr. Heather Olson Beal, Dr. Janet Tareilo, Dr. Jannah Nerren, Dr. Jay Thornton, Mr. Joe Strahl, Dr. Joyce Johnston, Dr. Judy Abbott, Ms. Julie Stadler, Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, Ms. Katie Snyder, Dr. Kimberly Welsh, Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson, Dr. Lisa Mize, Ms. Lisa Stone, Dr. Lynda Martin, Dr. Michael Munro, Dr. Michelle Williams, Dr. Neill Armstrong, Dr. Paige Mask, Dr. Paula Griffin, Dr. Robbie Steward, Dr. Scott Slough, Dr. Barbara Qualls (for Stacy Hendricks), Mr. Stan Bobo, Dr. Susan Casey, Dr. Tom Judson, and Dr. Tracey Hasbun.

Not in attendance:

Ms. Carrie Durrett, Dr. Claudia Whitley, Mr. David Goodman, Ms. Elizabeth Spradley, Dr. Glen McCuller, Dr. Jeanie Gresham, Dr. Jose Neftali Recinos, Dr. Josephine Taylor, Ms. Libby Rhodes, Ms. Lindsey Kennon, Dr. Manny Brand, Dr. Mark Turner, Ms. Melissa McMillian-Cunningham, Dr. Mike Martin, Dr. Nancy Shepherd, Dr. Paul Sandul, Dr. Scott Whitney, Ms. Shelia Dyer, and Dr. William Nieberding.

Dr. Abbott called the meeting to order and then asked for introductions.

The minutes from February 4 were reviewed:

- Dr. Vaughan made a motion to accept.
- Dr. Williams seconded.
- All voted to approve the minutes with the possible misspelling of "Qualtrex" (Will be changed to Qualtrics.)

Dr. Abbott announced that a PEC page is in process on the PCOE website and should be fully operational for the fall semester.

Dr. Nerren gave a CAEP update:

- She shared the final version of the Professional Dispositions Statement for Educator Preparation and asked for feedback.
- She pointed out that the most significant changes to it were (1) a statement that the candidate has to sign and date that he/she understands it and (2) several instruments to be piloted in fall.

- Dr. Welsh mentioned the issue of adding CIP codes.
- Dr. Thornton was concerned if the document effectively assesses online classes.
- Dr. Vaughan stressed that, with online classes, a professor can see who has logged in and participated in discussion boards thereby providing more hard data showing when assignments have been submitted.
- Dr. Thornton also was concerned about the development of social skills in online classes.
- Dr. Williams mentioned the use of webcams.
- Dr. Abbott brought up that all programs vary, have strengths and weaknesses, and that any course delivery method can have issues.
- Dr. Martin said that in Human Sciences the online peer assessment of teaching has posed problems and suggested seeing what other universities are doing. Dr. Abbott agreed.
- Dr. Nerren emphasized that only the dispositions statement was up for final vote at the time.
- Dr. Abbott pointed out that the statement is for educator, not just teacher, preparation.
- The issue of more inclusive language was discussed briefly.
- **Dr. Murgia made a motion to accept the statement. Dr. Casey seconded. All voted to approve the statement.**

Dr. Nerren also covered the 19 items on the Teacher Candidate Dispositions Assessment:

- Dr. Vaughan mentioned work on another document in which General Counsel had told her to replace “communication” with “verbal” and “non-verbal.”
- Dr. Mask asked for clarification of “pilot” and “clinical practice.”
- Dr. Abbott explained these terms to the committee. She added that, whether a candidate is an undergraduate or graduate, he must seek an initial certification.
- Some in the group said that “initial” can have different meanings in different programs.
- Dr. Welsh asked if the document should have a three instead of five-point scale.
- Dr. Vaughan pointed out that the “cannot determine” column really means the faculty “have no reason to believe otherwise.”
- She also said that it is a default column that faculty can use so that they are not burdened with assessing every student every time.
- Dr. Qualls supported the five-point scale.
- Dr. Steward questioned the relevancy of the “cannot determine” column for student surveys.

Dr. Hasbun gave a brief SPA report:

- Most uploads will be in September.
- It looks very hopeful that the English program will be fully recognized.

Dr. Nerren then went over the document comparing student teachers between spring '15 and fall '15:

- She pointed out that the total number of student teachers was broken down by major for each semester.
- Dr. Williams asked how many of them are remote supervision.
- Dr. Nerren replied that Carrie Durrett would have the answer.
- Dr. Nerren also mentioned the flier that was emailed statewide recently in order to recruit new field supervisors.

Ms. Snyder gave an update from TEA:

- She learned from an early March meeting with TEA's Mixon Henry that an interview or other screening instrument is part of the educator certification program admission standards.
- Dr. Nerren emphasized that the interview methods and questions brought to PEC are just proposals for now.
- She stressed the two proposals for conducting the interviews: course specific interview day and the college-wide interview day.
- She added that Mixon said that interviews or other screening instrument will become required for admissions in fall '15 and that video interviews are not preferred.
- Dr. Sheriff brought up the connection between concerns and dispositions.
- Dr. Murgia felt that pre- and post-interviews would be effective ways to analyze a candidate's communication skills.
- Dr. Martin said that currently Human Sciences utilizes Career Services for interviews and suggested checking with that office for ideas.
- Dr. Nerren pointed out the time issue.
- Dr. Sams asked if interviews would be done at the departmental level.
- Dr. Nerren suggested that all outside programs connect with Secondary Education.
- Dr. Slough felt that interviews should be a part of the application process, not part of a course.
- Dr. Olson Beal expressed concern that interviews by individual faculty as admission criteria could open faculty up to liability and, therefore, should be collaborative.
- Dr. Armstrong suggested having graduate assistants conduct interviews.
- Dr. Judson proposed that two faculty members should interview at the same time.
- Dr. Sams brought up faculty interviewing at different time then conferring with each other later.
- Dr. Olson Beal asked when interviews would begin.
- Dr. Nerren replied that an interview process should begin in fall '15 but wouldn't have to be on the first day.
- She encouraged committee members to email her with comments and then she would forward those to everyone.

- Dr. Abbott said that the current open, rolling application may need to be altered to one with tighter entry points.
- Dr. Nerren stressed the process won't be perfect initially, but that the move is toward implementation and then ironing out issues.
- Dr. Vaughan proposed a plan C: a three-week window for individual departments to conduct interviews.
- Dr. Abbott stated to keep the following in light of multiple programs: the faculty know what they're doing, what they're doing is posted, and students know what is expected.

The next item concerned re-entry into graduate programs after non-certified graduation:

- Dr. Nerren announced that the consequences are testing privileges being revoked at SFA and not being able to do the PBIC program at SFA.
- She added, however, they can pursue a PBIC program at an alternative institution.
- Dr. Olson Beal asked if this requirement should be in syllabi.
- Dr. Nerren replied that it should be and that it was part of TAC 230.
- She reiterated Sandra Nix at TEA: either students are no longer in EPP or they graduate with certification and are called a finisher.
- After addressing a scenario from Dr. Mask, Dr. Abbott said that this re-entry issue would be clarified in writing.
- Ms. Snyder stressed that the requirement is nothing new. It is just that SFA has not been in compliance for some time.
- Dr. Nerren emphasized compliance after clarification of the rule by three people at TEA.

Dr. Tareilo gave a curriculum update:

- There is a new framework for curriculum in 2015-16.
- August 1 is the deadline to change curriculum for the next academic year.
- Course fees are often a factor.
- The curriculum committee will meet in September.
- There have been some technical problems in loading changes.
- She'll work with Lynda Langham in de-briefing about the new MySFA system.
- Dr. Vaughan suggested building in PEC approval.
- Dr. Tareilo wants to be aware of what is happening campus wide.
- Dr. Welsh suggested sending the CIP numbers to Lynda Langham to check over.

The first discussion item was the proposed TEA grievance policy:

- Dr. Nerren emphasized that the policy basically was changed to meet TEA's complaint process.
- She reviewed the long chain of communication and said that it is protection.
- **Dr. Vaughan made a motion to accept the revised procedure. Dr. Tareilo seconded it. All voted to approve.**

The second discussion item regarded clinical practice placement:

- Dr. Nerren reviewed the policy which said that student teachers can accept assignments no further than 45 miles or one hour from their place of residence.
- **Dr. Williams made a motion to accept. Dr. Sams seconded. Except for one abstention, all voted to approve.**

The third discussion item regarded remote supervision:

- Dr. Nerren summarized the policy which said that online program or adjunct faculty travel in order to make observation visits for any students placed where SFA does not currently have field supervisors located since remote supervision of student teachers will no longer be an option effective Fall 2015.
- **Dr. Casey made a motion to approve. Dr. Welsh seconded it. All voted to approve.**

The fourth discussion item, the functions of the PEC, was only in the first reading stage:

- Dr. Nerren reviewed the document which outlines the functions of the PEC.
- She asked the committee members to read it but not take a vote.
- She also asked them to send her comments on the document before the fall meeting.

Lastly, Dr. Abbott asked for items from the floor:

- Dr. Armstrong remarked that some students were still being advised to take EPS 380 instead of HMS 203.
- Ms. Stone said that maybe some students still have EPS 380 on their degree plans.
- Dr. Abbott emphasized that undergraduate degree plans should be done after 45 hours.
- The question came up about how to remember to do degree plans on students.
- Ms. Stone replied that CAPP and advisors keep a check on degree plans.
- She added that the graduation office doesn't want graduate degree plans before the fact.
- Dr. Mize mentioned that maybe CIP codes are only needed for new courses.
- Dr. Abbott added that the curriculum committee can decide how to better handle CIPs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes Submitted by Ms. Carrie Williams