

**PEC Minutes
February 11, 2016
Wyatt Room, Steen Library**

The Professional Educator's Council (PEC) met Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 1:00 pm in the Steen Library's Wyatt Room.

In attendance:

Dr. Judy Abbott, Dr. Nancy Shepherd, Dr. Carol Wright, Dr. Adam Akerson, Dr. Susan Casey, Ms. Carrie Durrett, Ms. Francheska Fernandez (student representative), Dr. Brandon Fox, Ms. Hayley Gillen, Dr. Jeanie Gresham, Dr. Paula Griffin, Ms. Haley Jameson, Dr. Tom Judson, Ms. Lindsey Kennon, Dr. Paige Mask, Ms. Melissa McMillian-Cunningham, Ms. Heather Munro, Mr. Michael Munro, Dr. Jannah Nerren, Dr. Bill Nieberding, Dr. Heather Olson-Beal, Dr. Chris Sams, Dr. Heather Samuelson, Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson, Elizabeth Spradley, Dr. Robbie Steward, Ms. Lisa Stone, Dr. Janet Tareilo, Dr. Josephine Taylor, Dr. Liz Vaughan, Dr. Kimberly Welsh, Dr. Claudia Whitley, Dr. Michelle Williams, Ms. Carrie Williams, Ms. Maggie Patterson (for Scott Whitney and replacement for Shelia Dyer), and Mr. Chaz Zemanek (student representative)

Not in attendance:

Dr. David Goodman, Dr. Stacy Hendricks, Dr. Lynda Martin, Dr. Glen McCuller, Dr. Frank Mullins, Dr. Lisa Mize, Dr. Carla Murgia, Dr. Phoebe Okungu, Dr. Dale Perritt, Dr. Gabriela Recinos, Dr. Jose Neftali Recinos, Dr. Amanda Rudolph, Dr. Pauline Sampson, Dr. Paul Sandul, Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, Ms. Katie Snyder, Ms. Julie Stadler, Dr. Mark Turner, and Dr. Scott Whitney.

Dr. Abbott called the meeting to order:

- She emphasized that the PEC is a university committee, not just one for the Perkins COE.
- She informed the group that the present schedule is one fall meeting and two spring meetings.
- Then each member of the committee introduced himself.

The October minutes were briefly reviewed:

- Dr. Williams made a motion to accept them.
- Ms. Jameson seconded the motion.

Dr. Nerren gave an update on NCATE/CAEP:

- Dr. Sams recently submitted the English SPA which was fully recognized.
- Dr. Rust resubmitted the EC-12 Health SPA which was fully recognized until 2022.

- Dr. Michael Munro submitted the VI SPA which was fully recognized until 2022.
- Dr. Judson and Dr. Lesa Beverly submitted the Math SPA which wasn't recognized but they will meet and review what needs to be adjusted.
- Dr. Paul-Urena submitted the Modern Languages SPA. It was not recognized either but it has changed hands and other extenuating circumstances played a role. However, she will meet to make improvements.
- Dr. Nerren mentioned informing the Educator Preparation Program Committee on February 3 about the transition from PDAS to T-TESS, a tool for observing student teachers.
- T-TESS will be piloted in fall.
- Dr. Abbott said that SFA's educator preparation program must meet the requirements of many entities, especially the State of Texas, and that it is better to meet the requirements sooner than later.
- Dr. Abbott added that content organizations must be supported and that addendums to T-TESS are content-specific.
- Dr. Abbott stated that SFA wants to show that it has a high-quality educator preparation program.
- Dr. Nerren said that the NCATE to CAEP transition had taken three semesters so far.
- Dr. Nerren pointed out that the program evaluation by completion form shows the progress from NCATE to CAEP task standards.

Ms. Durrett gave a report on student teaching:

- There were 210 student teachers for Spring 2016.
- A listing of the student teachers by their certification areas was shared with the group.
- It was pointed out that the term "generalist" had been replaced by "core subjects."

Next, Dr. Nerren shared the following:

- Important student teaching dates for the 2016-2017.
- Emphasized that February 15 is the deadline for Fall 2016 student teaching.
- Stressed how critical it is to get the student teachers to pass the content test as soon as possible and that the deadline for Fall 2016 is August 15.
- Mentioned how sometimes Secondary Education students do not always get this information.
- Shared Ms. Snyder's number of certification recommendations for Fall 2016 and added that the number EC-6 and core subjects certifications can be combined.
- A really large issue is that students have a maximum of five times to pass a content exam but that SFA offers remediation.

Dr. Tareilo gave an update on curriculum issues:

- Curriculum changes, additions, and deletions are now done electronically September through November.
- The changes, additions and deletions are decided upon at the April Board of Regents meeting.
- The changes requested run a year behind implementation.
- Dr. Abbott pointed out the need for PCOE partnerships with the other colleges at SFA, especially if a college is making a change to a degree plan that influences the Educator Preparation Program requirements.
- Dr. Welsh, who is over the university curriculum committee, was asked for input, but she had none.
- Dr. Sams mentioned changes in the English program: The number of grammar courses increased from one to two and the Shakespeare course was replaced.
- He added that more emphasis is being given to film studies and creative writing.

Dr. Nerren covered the second reading of the first discussion item, Deadline Dates for Application to EPP:

- Deadlines would help create a cohort atmosphere among students entering the EPP.
- Students would have clearer expectations with deadlines.
- The office staff processing the applications would have a more streamlined job of doing so.
- Advisors would have more time to advise.
- However, time would have to be provided for grades to post in setting the deadlines.
- She first suggested August 20 for fall and December 20 for spring.
- Ms. Stone came up with the Monday after grades are due.
- Dr. Nerren suggested five days after grades are due.
- Dr. Mask felt that the dates should stand and that a late admission deadline should be added.
- Then the group debated fixed dates of August 25 for fall and December 25 for spring.
- Some members expressed concern over Christmas Day being a deadline.
- Ms. Stone brought up January 5 as a possible spring deadline.
- Dr. Abbott said there is value in having fixed numerical dates to which Dr. Nerren agreed.
- Dr. Abbott asked for a motion to be made for making August 25 the deadline for fall and December 25 the deadline for spring admission into the EPP.
 - Ms. James made the motion.
 - Dr. Whitley seconded the motion.
- Dr. Olson Beal then brought up the issue of students who want to be admitted into the EPP for summer.
- Dr. Abbott asked then that a “friendly amendment” be made to the fall and spring deadlines.

- All were in favor of the amendment and none opposed.
- Dr. Abbott reminded the committee that, even though the PCOE is student-centered, students should not be given the impression that they will be granted whatever they want.
- The group agreed that the agreed upon deadlines for fall, spring and summer can be changed in future years if needed.

Dr. Nerren covered the first reading of the second discussion item, Appeals for Certification Testing/Student Teaching:

- She stressed that the mandate to pass content tests by a certain deadline prior to student teaching is an SFA, not TEA, mandate.
- She gave examples of extenuating circumstances, such as health and finances, that may keep a student from procrastinating the exam or not passing by the deadline.
- For Spring 2016, 21 appeals were approved.
- Of those 21 appeals, 14 students passed and six failed.
- Of the six who failed, two attempted to student teach but were ultimately pulled from the program.
- It was brought up that the EC-6 exam is now more difficult because of it being divided by subjects.
- The group then debated whether or not to grant appeals at all and, if so, should a form even be used.
- Dr. Williams commented that some of the approved appeals were done too early.
- Dr. Nerren suggested the form have a place for the program coordinator to sign.
- Dr. Gresham said that pulling student teachers out of campuses is a poor reflection on SFA's student teaching program.
- Dr. Mask commented to the group that the drop from student teaching was related to TEA accountability to which Dr. Vaughan replied it did go against our accountability if a student did not pass the TExES exam by the end of student teaching.
- Several committee members questioned why appeals were allowed in the first place.
- Dr. Abbott replied that appeals had been in place since Dr. Lisa Mize was associate dean.
- She added, however, that the system needs to be made more systematic and transparent.
- Dr. Nerren was asked how many students are even able to appeal to which she replied that Ms. Stadler could better answer that question, but Ms. Stadler was not present.
- Dr. Vaughan mentioned that the state dropped the pass rate but that the rate could be raised again.
- Ms. McMillian-Cunningham commented that the appeal process could increase transparency with the student teachers' mentors.
- Dr. Solmonson asked what happens when student teachers reaches a maximum of six drops.
- Dr. Michael Munro expressed concern over pulling student teachers from their campuses, the impact on the campus, and the image of SFA alumni.

- Dr. Abbott said that appeals were put in place because partner schools requested them.
- She added that, while passing a test often suggests high skills, a test is not a sole determinant of a good teacher.
- Dr. Mask asked about the legality of being stricter than TEA.
- Dr. Abbott answered that the PCOE is not held by law to offer the opportunity to appeal but that the PCOE does want the appeal process to be an option.
- Ms. Jameson expressed concern over so many education students failing and what issue is being missed.
- One committee member said, in her program, that one in 21 of her students failed but only by one point.
- In general, the group felt that, with 21 appeals granted and 2/3 of those students finally passing, the process is going well already but that failing multiple times could be a factor.
- Dr. Abbott reinforced with everyone the first reading on this topic was done at the February 11 meeting.
- Dr. Nerren said that the second reading on this issue would be at the April 21 meeting and, if approved, would take effect Fall 2016.
- She stressed the goal of transparency and added the ultimate decision may be a limited appeals process or none at all.
- She encouraged the group give the issue some thought until the April meeting and to move on to the next discussion item.

Dr. Nerren covered the third discussion item, GPA Requirements for Admission vs. Continuance:

- Dr. Nerren alluded to the TEA mock audit in June and that is when she learned that there was a problem with GPA calculations for the EPP.
- While SFA Admissions counts transfer courses, it doesn't use the transfer courses to figure a student's overall GPA at SFA.
- However, Dr. Nerren learned that TEA expects transfer courses to be figured into a student's overall GPA to determine if the student has the 2.75 or higher for admission into EPP.
- Dr. Nerren stated that, at the end of each fall and spring semester, she runs a report to see which students admitted into the EPP have dropped below 2.75.
- However, she stated that there is no documentation that says a student must maintain a 2.75 at SFA to remain in the EPP.
- She pointed out that the TEA code says that a 2.75 is only required for admission but does not mention continuation.
- Student representative, Ms. Fernandez, said that she didn't know, until becoming a part of the PEC, that her transfer GPA counted at SFA for EPP purposes.
- The committee agreed that transfer students need to be kept more informed about GPA issues and how they relate to the EPP.
- Dr. Abbott did confirm that, for admission to SFA in general, the hours of transfer courses count but the grades of the transfer courses do not.

- Dr. Sams said that, with repeat courses, he uses the most current.
- Dr. Nerren emphasized the need to formalize the issue of whether or not the 2.75 should be a continuation GPA in addition to an admission GPA for the EPP.
- Dr. Abbott said that this discussion could be considered the first reading for this issue with a second reading and vote being taken at the April meeting.
- Student representative, Mr. Zemanek, was an advocate of keeping the 2.75 as the GPA for both admission and continuation in the EPP.
- Dr. Nerren then referred a portion of the Texas Administrative Code (one of several documents emailed to the PEC prior to the meeting) and asked the group to concentrate on the highlighted portions, especially the one dealing with 12 hours in a content area because a vote would be taken on it in the April meeting.

The last discussion item was the Interview or Other Screening Instruments Progress:

- Dr. Nerren shared with the group the document that Secondary Education had assembled to pilot interviews.
- Dr. Vaughan shared that Elementary Education had revised its interview process some so that it would be more holistic.
- Dr. Olson Beal mentioned that Skype is being used for PBIC interviews.

Due to time constraints, the final discussion item, PBIC Mentor Stipends, was not covered.

Dr. Abbott asked for items from the floor and there were none.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting will be at 1 pm on April 21. Location is to be announced.