

**Professional Educator's Council Minutes**  
**October 20, 2016**  
**Student Center Tiered Classroom**

The Professional Educator's Council (PEC) met Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 1:30 pm in the Student Center Tiered Classroom.

In attendance: Dr. Adam Akerson, Ms. Carrie Baker, Dr. Susan Casey, Dr. Brandon Fox, Dr. Jeanie Gresham, Dr. Paula Griffin, Ms. Karla Hamilton, Mr. Mark Hawkins, Dr. Stacy Hendricks, Ms. Haley Jameson, Ms. Jessie Jenkins, Dr. Tom Judson, Dr. Lindsey Kennon, Dr. Paige Mask, Dr. Glen McCuller, Dr. Lisa Mize, Dr. Frank Mullins, Ms. Heather Munro, Mr. Michael Munro, Dr. Jannah Nerren, Dr. Bill Nieberding, Dr. Heather Olson-Beal, Dr. Maggie Patterson, Ms. Cindy Phelps, Dr. Barbara Qualls, Dr. Amanda Rudolph, Dr. Pauline Sampson, Dr. Chris Sams, Ms. Heather Samuelson, Dr. Nancy Shepherd, Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson, Dr. Robbie Steward, Ms. Lisa Stone, Mr. Joe Strahl, Dr. Josephine Taylor, Dr. Liz Vaughan, Dr. Kimberly Welsh, Dr. Claudia Whitley, Ms. Carrie Williams, Dr. Michelle Williams, and Dr. Ann Wilson (for Dr. Carol Wright).

Not in attendance: Dr. Judy Abbott, Ms. Carrie Durrett, Mr. David Goodman, Dr. Lynda Martin, Dr. Dale Perritt, Dr. Gabriela Recinos, Dr. Jose Neftali Recinos, Dr. Paul Sandul, Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, Ms. Katie Snyder, Dr. Elizabeth Spradley, Ms. Julie Stadler, Dr. Scott Whitney, and Dr. Carol Wright.

Dr. Nerren called the meeting to order at 1:00.

- Each member was introduced.
- Dr. Nerren requested that the members look over the minutes from April 2016 and opened the floor for comments.
- Dr. Vaughan asked about the term "interview" in item d. on page five and whether it should be "admission screening" instead.
- After discussion, it was decided that the April minutes be changed for accuracy to "interview or other screening instrument", but that for future reference, "admission screening" would be the new term used rather than "admission interview" to increase clarity.
- Dr. Sams made a motion to accept the April minutes with this change.
- Dr. Williams seconded the motion.
- All were in favor, and none were opposed.

The first reports came from the Office of Assessment and Accountability.

Dr. Nerren explained in further detail the two documents regarding the change from NCATE to CAEP:

- Ms. Jenkins, student representative, asked why the philosophy paper is no longer required.

- Dr. Nerren replied that it no longer meet its original need for unit assessment data collection, but is still an option for instructors if it valuable to their course or program.
- Dr. Whitley corrected the MLG course numbers for the CAEP Unit Assessment chart.

Next, Dr. Nerren presented the Office of Assessment and Accountability organizational chart:

- She pointed out that the former position of data management coordinator, held by Ms. Hailey Gillen, had been reconfigured somewhat into two part-time positions, data analyst and program assistant.
- She emphasized that the educator preparation program (EPP) manager and data analyst positions were newly created.
- She gave several goals of the new EPP manager position in that it would: allow someone to be more focused on educator preparation, expand what is done in field placements, and create a greater presence at SBEC meetings.
- She also stressed that, even though the chart shows a graduate assistant, that position is currently vacant.

As for candidate data, Dr. Nerren shared a snapshot of the number of Fall 2016 student teachers by certification:

- She said the data was broken down to show how SFA is filling the needs of student teachers.
- Dr. Vaughan pointed out that “generalist” has been replaced by “core subjects.”
- Dr. Sams noted that English Language Arts and Reading is now grades 7-12 instead of 8-12.

Ms. Baker gave updates on SBEC which will send three items to SBOE to decide upon in its November 15 meeting. If approved, they would take effect December 27.

The first is a proposed technology fee of \$55/student:

- As a result of the student paying this fee to SFA, the university then will pay about \$44,000 annually to TEA.
- This fee, according to Dr. Nerren and Ms. Baker, is intended by TEA to facilitate the running of programs like ASEP.
- Dr. Qualls asked if both undergraduates and graduates would be affected to which Ms. Baker replied the fee would apply to both.
- Ms. Baker said that, if approved, SFA would start paying the TEA invoices in September 2017 for fees collected March 15-September 1, 2017.
- Dr. Nerren stressed that this would be revisited in the spring PEC meeting.
- She was asked how the \$100 EPP fee was originally intended to be used.
- She gave examples such as data management, student teaching orientation, SFA teacher job fair, and professional development of the EPP staff. She added that she would email these examples to all the council members.
- Dr. Qualls asked if the SBOE members at the November meeting would be the newly elected ones or not.

- Dr. Fox asked about the relationships among the EPP's statewide and proposed that they maybe form a petition. Dr. Nerren told him that the EPP's already have banded together but need to be more present at the SBEC meetings.
- Dr. Qualls emphasized that the real differences and decisions at SBEC are made at the committee level.
- Dr. Vaughan mentioned cases where a given EPP is told it is not the only stakeholder and that the other stakeholders don't agree with the given EPP.
- It was also suggested the PEC members contact their legislators.
- Dr. Mize asked for specifics on how the EPP fee is currently used and Dr. Nerren said that she send a list of expenditures for 15-16.
- The general sentiment of the council was that the \$100 EPP admission fee should not be increased because of this potential new fee.

The second would require candidates to experience the first 15 days of a school year through clinical teaching, field experience, or videos/electronic means:

- Dr. Nerren stressed that this is a logistical issue and could vary from program to program.
- Dr. Vaughan said that many schools will not permit video, nor do they want student teachers in the classrooms at the very beginning of the school year.
- Dr. Hendricks suggested improving partnerships between SFA and districts.
- Dr. Vaughan mentioned that background checks are sometimes still being done during those first days of school, delaying a candidate's entry onto the campus.

The third regards the five attempts students get to take the TExES test.

- While students would still get the five attempts, Ms. Baker said that the university's pass rate would be determined by the students' first two attempts.
- Ms. Jenkins asked about the kinds of support students receive from SFA to pass the TExES.
- Dr. Nerren replied that departments offer one-on-one remediation, and that the testing offices also provide support materials.

The second report came from Student Services and Advising.

- Dr. Hendricks stated that the curriculum committee had been meeting every Monday for the past six weeks and will remain doing so through November.
- While the committee has reviewed many fee and course proposals, she added that it has many more to review. Some have been accepted and some rejected already.
- Dr. Olson Beal asked if there is a centralized location to view the results of these proposals.
- Mr. Strahl replied that the website should be updated in the next day or two.
- Dr. Hendricks also talked about conducting training on e-portfolios and said that she appreciates the support she has received.
- Ms. Stone announced that Kelly Morgan and Megan Kelley were new advisors, Belinda Vanglahn is retiring, and a search committee will be formed to replace her.

- She added that 1,735 students have been advised for Spring 2017, there are still 1,379 remaining.

Before beginning the discussion items, Dr. Nerren emphasized that the next PEC meeting is February 16, when these items would be revisited.

Discussion of the first item, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the PBIC course fees, was tabled until the February meeting due to the dean's absence.

The second discussion item, the 1<sup>st</sup> reading: Ethics Seminar, was covered:

- In light of so many ethics violations amongst Texas educators, Dr. Nerren suggested that SFA take a stronger approach to making future educators aware of actions and consequences in the classroom.
- As a result, she formed a task force over summer 2016 that proposed ethics seminars for all students applying for the EPP.
- Personnel from partner schools could be used in conducting these seminars.
- Seminars should not conflict with student schedules.
- Dr. Nieberding expressed concern that students may have difficulty comprehending the seminar before going into the classroom because they haven't pictured themselves in that setting yet.
- Dr. Nerren pointed out that the training would have a multi-pronged approach.
- Dr. Shepherd said that she was doing an ethics study with teachers and that, at the secondary level, teachers faced more dilemmas and felt less prepared.
- Ms. Jenkins admitted that she felt unprepared for ethics issues and that she had received minimal instruction in this area.
- Dr. Nerren shared the names of the task force and thanked them:
  - Dr. Adam Akerson
  - Dr. Chrissy Cross
  - Dr. Lisa Mize
  - Dr. Christina Sinclair
  - Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson
- Dr. Nerren asked the PEC to consider allowing the seminar to be piloted in the spring 2016 semester as an exploratory phase, with full implementation as a requirement for admission in the 16-17 academic year.
- She asked if an email vote on the ethics seminars could be done, before the February meeting, which would include an agenda, seminar dates, and an ethics Powerpoint presentation.
- Dr. Sams asked if this would be another prerequisite to the EPP.
- Dr. Vaughan, for now, advocated a vote to at least pilot, rather than fully implement, the program.
- Dr. Olson Beal asked about data gathering. Dr. Nerren told her that students would complete a survey at the end of the seminar.

The third discussion item, the 1<sup>st</sup> reading: TSI for admission, was then discussed:

- Dr. Nerren shared that SBEC had voted to approve using TSI Complete status as an acceptable indicator of basic skills for admission to EPPs.
- She suggested that using the TSI for admission would save students money on having to take the Accuplacer or other tests to enter the EPP.
- She added that a student being considered TSI complete can be based on other tests and that GPA's are checked every semester thereby removing low-performing candidates from the EPP.
- She posed that GPA was a better indicator of success than basic skills assessments taken prior to admission.
- Dr. Griffin asked if the five-year limitation on test scores would still be in effect, and Dr. Nerren replied that the PEC should consider this.
- Dr. Williams remarked that TSI completeness is not based on number of years.
- Dr. Nerren encouraged the group to think about the issue for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in February or by survey vote prior to that.

Discussion of the first item, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the PBIC course fees, was tabled until the February meeting due to time constraints and the Dean's absence.

Dr. Nerren then asked for items from the floor.

- There were none.
- Dr. Sampson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Ms. Jameson seconded the motion.
- All were in favor and none were opposed.
- The meeting adjourned at 1.25 p.m.

The next meeting will be February 16, 2017, in the student center tiered classroom from 1:30-3:00 pm.