

**Professional Educator's Council Minutes**  
**February 16, 2017**  
**Student Center Tiered Classroom**

The Professional Educator's Council (PEC) met Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 1:30 pm in the Baker Patillo Student Center Tiered Classroom.

In attendance: Dr. Judy Abbott, Dr. Adam Akerson, Ms. Carrie Baker, Dr. Susan Casey, Ms. Carrie Durrett, Mr. David Goodman, Dr. Jeanie Gresham, Dr. Paula Griffin, Ms. Jessie Jenkins, Dr. Lynda Martin, Dr. Paige Mask, Dr. Lisa Mize, Dr. Frank Mullins, Dr. Suzanne Maniss (for Dr. Michael Munro and Ms. Heather Munro), Dr. Bill Nieberding, Dr. Heather Olson Beal, Dr. Dale Perritt, Ms. Cindy Phelps, Dr. Barbara Qualls, Dr. Jose Neftali Recinos, Dr. Amanda Rudolph, Dr. Pauline Sampson, Dr. Chris Sams, Ms. Heather Samuelson, Dr. Nancy Shepherd, Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, Dr. Christina Sinclair, Ms. Katie Snyder Martin, Ms. Julie Stadler, Dr. Robbie Steward, Ms. Lisa Stone, Dr. Josephine Taylor, Dr. Liz Vaughan, Dr. Kimberly Welsh, Dr. Claudia Whitley, Ms. Carrie Williams, Dr. Michelle Williams, and Dr. Carol Wright.

Not in attendance: Dr. Brandon Fox, Ms. Karla Hamilton, Mr. Mark Hawkins, Dr. Stacy Hendricks, Ms. Haley Jameson, Dr. Tom Judson, Dr. Lindsey Kennon, Dr. Glen McCuller, Dr. Maggie Patterson, Dr. Gabriela Recinos, Dr. Paul Sandul, Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson, Dr. Elizabeth Spradley, and Dr. Scott Whitney.

**1. Welcome**

**a. Introductions**

Dr. Abbott called the meeting to order then:

- Introduced the new interim associate dean of Assessment and Accountability, Dr. Christina Sinclair.
- Explained functions of Perkins College of Education Office of Assessment and Accountability.
- Described how the roles of Dr. Sinclair, Mr. Strahl as technology and data manager, and Ms. Baker as educator preparation program (EPP) manager, relate to each other.
- Asked all PEC members to introduce themselves.

**b. Approval of October Minutes**

- Dr. Abbott asked the council to review the October 2016 minutes.
- Dr. Sams moved to accept the minutes without any changes; Dr. Welsh seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**2. Assessment & Accountability**

**a. Report from fall electronic vote:**

- **TSI for admission approved**

Dr. Sinclair reported:

- The TSI was approved for admission into the EPP.

- Acceptable EPP admission include the TSI, ACT, SAT; the Accuplacer is no longer acceptable.

- **Ethics Seminar pilot approved**

Dr. Sinclair reported:

- Electronic vote results indicate approval to Pilot the ethics seminar.
- March 6 and 9 dates were announced for the pilot ethics seminars. Seminars will be for students entering the EPP in summer and fall 2017. The seminar was piloted with one of Dr. Williams' MLG classes on February 6.
- Principals from the EPP committee will be used to conduct the seminars and feedback will be collected during the pilots.
- The pilot session will not be video recorded; however, PEC may vote to begin video record the permanent sessions to develop an online module.

**b. Candidate data**

Ms. Snyder Martin reported:

- Certification recommendations from 9/1/16-2/1/17 included: elementary and middle-level grades—82; secondary and all-level-32; professional—80.
- A list of the districts in which PBIC interns taught during Fall 2016 was shared.

Ms. Durrett reported:

- In Fall 2016, there were 139 clinical teachers.
- Of those 139, 33 were in Nacogdoches area ISDs, 27 in the Dallas area, and 31 in the Houston area ISDs.

Ms. Stadler reported:

- Pass rates on content exams across all certification areas for the 2015-2016 academic year were 99% each for each gender.
- Disaggregated pass rates were reported for completers by gender and ethnicity.
- Certification tests for agriculture, dance, and technology applications have been replaced.
- SFA's pass rate is now based on the student's first two attempts at the test.
- In order for SFA to remain accredited by TEA, the PPR pass rate for 2016-17 must be at least 80%.
- The PPR pass rate requirement will increase to 85% in 2017-18 and to 90% in 2018-19.
- Dr. Abbott mentioned that this increasing rate is meant to press institutions of higher education (IHEs) as well as for-profit alternative certification programs; IHEs currently account for 38% and for-profits 62% of recommendations for teacher certification; IHEs are committed to increasing that proportion to 50%.

- Dr. Qualls questioned if it would be to the for-profits' advantage to stay at 15 programs with nine students per program because program areas with fewer than 10 candidates are not counted in the overall unit pass rate.
- Ms. Stadler indicated this strategy would only be a temporary solution, because after three consecutive years with fewer than 10 candidates a program would be counted in the overall unit pass rate.
- Dr. Sheriff suggested using the disposition interviews earlier in the EPP admission process.
- Ms. Stadler also shared the non-PPR pass rate requirements: 70% for 2016-17; 75% for 2017-18; 80% for 2018-19; 85% for 2019-20; 90% for 2020-21.
- Dr. Mask asked about the outcome if the 90% rate is not met in 2020-21.
- Ms. Stadler replied that SFA would likely be put on a plan for improvement or placed on probation.
- Dr. Abbott mentioned in such a case the analysis of sub-populations would be important.
- Dr. Vaughan brought up that Elementary Education once administered an admissions test to detect who was weak in test-taking and questioned if maybe the test should be reinstated.
- Lastly, Ms. Stadler shared pass rates over the last three academic years: 98% for 2013-14; 97% for 2014-15; 99% for 2015-16.

**c. Update from SBEC**

Ms. Baker reported:

- New field supervisor requirements effective Fall ; this may require an increased need for more field supervisors.
- Dr. Qualls asked if a principal or superintendent currently with an out-of-state certification is acceptable; Ms. Baker replied most likely it is acceptable but that she would double check.
- Ms. Baker also stressed that a field supervisor cannot supervise a student teacher in a given district if the supervisor also works for that district.
- Dr. Welsh expressed concern if SFA faculty would meet the new requirements.

**3. Student Services & Advising**

**a. Curriculum update:  
results of electronic vote**

Ms. Stone reported:

- Electronic voting results regarding the curriculum were: 28 were in favor with none opposed.

**b. Advising update**

Ms. Stone reported:

- The Advising Center is currently booked every 30 minutes of every day.
- Of the six advisors, four are new.

#### 4. Discussion Items:

##### a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: PBIC Course Fees (tabled from October meeting)

- Dr. Sinclair began by telling the PEC that currently PBIC mentor teachers are paid \$300 to mentor one PBIC intern for one semester.
- She shared a breakdown, assembled by Dr. Olson Beal, of the \$750 course fee associated with this payment.
- Dr. Sinclair stressed that, in the past, some mentor teachers have not completed required assessments on their interns but that implementation of Livetext for reporting assessment data had improved the rate at which mentor teachers were completing required assessments.
- She added that, in the future, TEA may require more mentor teacher training which will require more time and money.
- Dr. Sinclair proposed reducing the \$300 payment to \$150.
- Dr. Martin questioned rationale behind the \$150 amount.
- Dr. Olson Beal asked, if the mentor teachers do not complete the work at the current pay rate, what would give them incentive to complete the work for half that amount.
- Dr. Sinclair reiterated that Livetext has given the mentor teachers greater incentive to complete the work.
- Ms. Baker pointed out that some of the mentor teachers actually do the work but do not do the paperwork required to get paid.
- Dr. Welsh asked if the mentor teachers have been surveyed about this payment.
- Dr. Gresham wanted to know if SFA is legally supposed to provide the PBIC intern a mentor teacher to which Ms. Baker replied that is correct.
- Dr. Abbott stressed that some universities do not pay their mentors teachers.
- Dr. Mask questioned, if the mentor teachers are going to be required to attend training, why would they agree to less pay.
- Dr. Gresham's stance was that it is primarily the school district's responsibility to provide the PBIC interns with a mentor teacher.
- Dr. Sinclair emphasized the need for mentor teacher data.
- Dr. Vaughan supported the \$300 to \$150 reduction provided that the progress is monitored so that maybe the PEC could revisit the issue later and raise the payment back to \$300 if needed.
- Dr. Olson Beal expressed concern that PBIC interns are paying the \$750 course fee but that not all mentor teachers are getting paid.
- She asked, if the issue of reducing mentor pay is tabled for now, what should be done in the interim.
- Dr. Abbott reinforced with the council that this discussion item only pertained to the mentors of PBIC interns, not clinical teachers.
- Dr. Olson Beal brought up that the PBIC interns pay the \$750/semester course fee at least twice because they must teach at least two semesters.
- Dr. Abbott added that, if the mentor teacher payment is reduced by \$150, the course fee would be lowered to \$600: \$150 to pay the mentor teacher; \$300 to pay the field supervisor; \$150 to pay the field supervisor travel.

- Dr. Abbott stressed that this is a TEA, not SFA, rule. She added that the mentor teacher must submit his/her work to SFA for payment.
- Dr. Sams made a motion to reduce the fee to \$150 with the understanding to revisit the issue at a later time.
- Dr. Vaughan seconded the motion.
- The vote was as follows: 17-in favor; 7-opposed; 2-abstained.
- Ms. Stone pointed out that, even with the issue passed, the earliest it could take effect would be Fall 2018 because it still has to go through the curriculum committees.
- Dr. Olson Beal advocated revisiting the reduction in the 2017-18 academic year.

**b. 1st reading: Accommodation for Infrequently Offered Certification Test Appeals**

- Dr. Sinclair indicated August 15<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> are the current last dates for clinical teachers to submit passing content exam scores to be eligible for fall and spring clinical teaching without a waiver –
- She expressed concern that the current deadlines are not meeting students' needs.
- Therefore, she proposed the spring deadline be moved to January 15.
- Dr. Sampson asked if these test deadlines applied only to clinical teaching.
- Dr. Sinclair indicated that the dates only apply to clinical teaching.
- Dr. Nieberding asked about the pros and cons of changing the spring date.
- Ms. Stadler explained the advantages to the council.
- Dr. Sinclair felt that, if the change helps students, why not make it.
- Dr. Sinclair brought up that changing the spring date would help students with issues regarding testing space and travel.

**c. 1st reading: TEA Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs  
Technology Fee**

- Dr. Sinclair announced that, for each student admitted to the EPP from 3/15/17-9/1/17, TEA would begin charging SFA an ASEP fee of \$55 per student.
- She added that the fee stays the same for the 2017-18 academic year but decreases to \$35 per student for 2018-19.
- She projected that SFA will pay TEA \$23,000 on September 1, 2017, and that this estimate is based on data from 3/1/16-8/31/16.
- She further predicted that SFA will pay TEA \$43,000 on September 1, 2018, based on data from 9/1/15-8/31/16.
- In answering how to cover this payment, she shared how the current EPP fee of \$100 per student was used in 2015-16 in areas such as advising, general support for the EPP, orientation, and professional development.
- She also shared how the ASEP fee might impact the aforementioned areas for 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- As a result, she proposed increasing the EPP fee from \$100 to \$135 and that the increase could possibly take effect Fall 2018.

- Dr. Abbott added that, since the EPP fee is not a course fee and doesn't have to go through curriculum committees, it possibly could be put on a faster track so that it's effective Fall 2017.
- Dr. Sampson questioned the total for online graduate students when other fees, such as for FEM and graduate school admission, are taken into account.
- Dr. Abbott offered a brief explanation.
- Dr. Mask suggested increasing the EPP fee for only undergraduates.
- Dr. Sinclair replied that the EPP fee increase would have to apply to all applicants.
- She welcomed any feedback and/or concerns from the council before the vote is taken in the April meeting.
- Dr. Qualls commented that the ASEP fee may solve TEA's problems but not others.
- Dr. Sampson suggested keeping the EPP admission fee to \$100 for online students.

**d. 1st reading: Payment of Mentor Teachers**

- Dr. Sinclair shared with the council that the clinical teaching fee is currently \$100 per student and that the fee is used to pay field supervisors when they observe student teachers.
- She asked the group, if mentor teachers of student teachers are compensated, to consider from where the money would come.
- Dr. Williams felt that mentors of student teachers deserved compensation because they have more responsibility than mentors of PBIC interns.
- Dr. Gresham expressed concern about how to provide the compensation.
- Dr. Welsh suggested that the mentor teacher task list may need to be analyzed and reduced thereby making compensation less of an issue.
- Dr. Abbott emphasized that there are TEA as well as SFA Human Resources requirements to be considered and that field supervisors are hired just like any other employee at the university.
- Ms. Baker brought up that the Partners in Education banquet first held in May 2016 was considered an enjoyable success and an expression of appreciation for their work with SFA clinical teachers.
- Dr. Gresham felt that mentoring a student teacher is just part of "serving our profession."
- Dr. Abbott said some universities offer incentives such as free access to the library and recreation center or a three-hour college course waiver.
- Dr. Gresham agreed there are ways other than payment to show mentors they're appreciated.

**e. Consideration of Increased PEC Meetings**

- Dr. Sinclair suggested that this issue be discussed for now and voted upon in April.

- Ms. Stone mentioned maybe two meeting per semester.
- Dr. Vaughan said that, since university EPP programs have to communicate with each other on their actions, more PEC meetings would be to the council's advantage.

**5. Items from the Floor**

- Dr. Sinclair asked for items from the floor. There were none. She announced that the next meeting is April 20.

**6. Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.