

PEC Minutes 10/30/14

The Professional Educator's Council (PEC) met Thursday, October 30, 2014, at 1:30 pm in the Steen Library's Wyatt Room.

Members attending:

Dr. Adam Akerson, Dr. Carla Murgia, Ms. Carrie Durrett, Dr. Chris Sams, Mr. David Goodman, Dr. Elizabeth Vaughan, Dr. Heather Olson Beal, Dr. Janet Tareilo, Dr. Jannah Nerren, Dr. Jay Thornton, Dr. Jeanie Gresham, Dr. Jose Neftali Recinos, Dr. Josephine Taylor, Dr. Joyce Johnston, Dr. Judy Abbott, Ms. Julie Stadler, Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, Ms. Katie Snyder, Dr. Kimberly Welsh, Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson, Ms. Libby Rhodes, Ms. Lisa Stone, Dr. Lynda Martin, Dr. Mark Turner, Dr. Phoebe Okungu (for Mr. Michael Munro), Dr. Michelle Williams, Dr. Neill Armstrong, Dr. Paige Mask, Dr. Paula Griffin, Dr. Pauline Sampson, Dr. Robbie Steward, Dr. Scott Slough, Dr. Scott Whitney, Dr. Stacy Hendricks, Mr. Stan Bobo, Dr. Susan Casey, Dr. Tom Judson, Dr. Tracey Hasbun, Dr. William Nieberding.

Not attending: Ms. Carolyn Conn, Dr. Claudia Whitley, Dr. Dale Perritt, Dr. Glen McCuller, Ms. Hayley Gillen, Ms. Lindsey Kennon, Dr. Manny Brand, Ms. Melissa McMillian-Cunningham, Dr. Mike Martin, Dr. Nancy Shepherd, Dr. Paul Sandul, and Ms. Shelia Dyer.

Dr. Abbott called the meeting to order by announcing the changes in associate deans within the Perkins College of Education (PCOE) since the committee met April 9, 2014. She introduced Dr. Nerren and also described Dr. Nerren's duties as the new Associate Dean in the Office of Assessment and Accountability. Next, everyone in attendance gave a brief introduction. The minutes from April 9 were reviewed. Dr. Murgia made a motion to accept, Ms. Rhodes seconded, and all voted to approve. Then Dr. Vaughan noted that, in the April 9 meeting, the rule to require a "C" or better in all content area courses was tabled; no vote was taken. Dr. Abbott asked who had either volunteered to be on this subcommittee and if others would like to serve on it. She then asked that the previous motion be rescinded. The majority agreed. Dr. Murgia moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Dr. Williams seconded, and all voted to approve. Dr. Martin asked who will preside over the subcommittee's meetings, and Dr. Vaughan agreed to do so.

Before Dr. Nerren gave a NCATE/CAEP update by describing the Spring 2014 visit, she thanked the staff in the Office of Assessment and Accountability for their work. She pointed out that the PEC members had been given a copy of the PEC policy and a committee roster in their folders. She went on to say that the PCOE has been recommended for reaccreditation until 2020-21, the spring visit gave PCOE faculty and staff many opportunities to be involved, all six standards were met at the initial and advanced levels, standards 1 and 2 each had two areas for improvement (AFI), standard 4 had one AFI, a rejoinder for standard 1 has been filed for the AFI regarding the school psychology program, and the chair for the NCATE visiting team reported a positive experience and noted healthy relationships between candidates and the university. Dr. Abbott added that the NCATE Legacy Board will make the final decision on the rejoinder and that she was not surprised by the AFI's. She felt that some AFI's resulted more from data not being in the correct form than the data not being present at all. Dr. Nerren stressed that NCATE is changing to CAEP. She said that, in the current academic year, there is already a CAEP committee assessing what is currently in place, the 2015-16 year will be a continuation of the same, 2016-17 will be a pilot year, the next three academic years will be for collecting unit assessments, and the next site visit

will be in 2020-21. Dr. Abbott stated that, despite the change from NCATE to CAEP, the PCOE is NCATE-accredited until 2020-21.

Dr. Hasbun briefly explained SPA reports, their purpose, the challenge in writing them, and why they had to be submitted before the NCATE site visit. She shared a list of SPA reports and their present statuses. She emphasized that some reports will have to be resubmitted and asked committee members to proof the list. It was agreed that Drs. Slough, Olson Beal and Armstrong will meet before meeting with outside SPA writers.

Next, Ms. Stadler covered the 2013-14 unit pass rates for both content and Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exams. Dr. Abbott emphasized that this information was for both completers and passers. Then Ms. Stadler shared the Accountability System for Educator Preparation (ASEP) 13-14 total pass rates which she said were higher than the previous academic year. Dr. Abbott pointed out that each subgroup must be 80 percent or higher. The next hand-out was the 13-14 ASEP pass rates by department. Ms. Stadler clarified that, if a student was a completer from 9/1/13-8/31/14 but passed his certification exam before then, the test still counted on the 13-14 report. Dr. Abbott stressed that students have three times per academic year to be a completer: December, May and August. Ms. Stadler added that a student can still be a completer without testing and that Title II reporting takes into account everyone in the programs. The last two reports distributed by Ms. Stadler regarded statewide comparisons and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) report. All this information generated considerable discussion and questions regarding the reporting time frames as well as the terminology (completer, LBB, and ASEP) and how those terms relate to each other. Lastly, Dr. Abbott said that, despite the necessity of the ASEP report, the committee members are the ones who first define the completers.

Ms. Durrett then covered student teaching by saying that 172 student teachers were enrolled for Fall 2014, Spring 2015 is projected to have 240, but that the number is likely to go down. She stressed that the Early Childhood (EC)-6 is the largest group. She also highlighted demographics, sites, and important dates coming up. Dr. Williams reported that some students were having problems understanding first and second placement dates when they had only one placement and that clarification was needed. Dr. Nerren pointed out that the demographics page grouped student teachers by site size and location. Dr. Abbott emphasized that the student teacher has a range of experiences going from field to clinical and that such demographics needs to be documented along the way in both macro (site demographics) and micro (class placement) forms. Dr. Martin suggested that the data also show how SFA's student teachers compare to the state.

Next, Mr. Joe Strahl described the Field Experience Module (FEM) and its purpose. He added that by end of 2016 it should be fully rolled out in educator preparation and in the PCOE. Dr. Nerren stressed that the FEM, now in its pilot phase, will streamline the collection of data and will facilitate effective placement of teacher candidates in a range of diverse experiences.

Ms. Snyder then gave a Texas Education Agency (TEA) update. She said that a common obstacle was people not knowing how to apply for their certification online. As a result, she put together a screenshot tutorial that she can email to people. She also shared certification numbers for 13-14 and pointed out that graduation may happen in an academic year prior to the certification application year. She explained that the State Board of Education (SBOE) recently rejected TAC Ch. 227 due to the proposal to increase the admittance GPA from 2.5 to 2.75. She added that the GPA issue had been a large one between the SBOE and the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) but that SFA already requires a 2.75. Next, she described the two main changes to take effect in Fall 2015 for initial

certification as a result of TAC Ch. 228. The field supervisor will have to be currently certified. Dr. Abbott told the group that she will clarify if this requirement applies to just student teacher or both practicum and student teaching. Also, Ms. Snyder announced remote supervision will no longer be available. Dr. Armstrong expressed concern at how initial certification programs will be affected. As for professional certification changes in Fall 2015, Ms. Snyder said that observations can be remote and that there must be three or more visits totaling 135 minutes. Additionally, the field supervisor must be currently certified in the same professional area. Dr. Abbott emphasized that copies of certifications will have to be submitted to the Assessment and Accountability office before Fall 2015 to comply with this new requirement. Dr. Turner asked who is ultimately responsible. Dr. Abbott replied that that stance will not be taken by requests for this information being sent out beforehand in a timely manner. Ms. Snyder concluded by stating that she wants SFA in good standing with TEA.

Next, Dr. Tareilo talked about the Student Services and Advising and welcomed any faculty who advise students to stop by the center. She asked that, for the sake of time, that program reports be bypassed on the agenda but such reports could still be sent to her after the meeting. However, she did point out the form students have to complete if they want to take a course in addition to student teaching. She added that the class must be online or after school hours. Dr. Thornton asked if it the student's responsibility to finish all courses before student teaching. Dr. Abbott replied that special cases do arise where student teachers need to take an extra class and that the PCOE is willing to work with them.

As for discussion items, Dr. Nerren announced that there is an effort to streamline forms such as the certification testing clearance. Otherwise, Dr. Abbott asked the group if they wanted to discuss now or think about the following for discussion at the spring meeting: (1) students seeking certification must take content and PPR exams within one year of clearance date and (2) student failing either the PPR or the content two consecutive times must return to their respective advisor to re-initiate the process. Dr. Mask agreed with the first but disagreed with the second because of students with disabilities. Dr. Sheriff asked if training would be available. Dr. Judson suggested a petition process. Dr. Abbott then asked the committee to take these two items to their faculty for discussion so that the PEC can revisit them in the spring meeting April 23. As a result, Dr. Abbott said the items, if approved, probably wouldn't take effect until Fall 2015 and that it is normal for such items to require two or more readings.

Lastly, Dr. Turner asked if the meeting hand-outs could be electronic next time instead of paper. Dr. Nerren replied that every effort would be made to move to electronic dissemination of materials prior to the next meeting. Dr. Vaughan asked about curriculum revisions and votes to which Dr. Abbott replied could be done via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.