

Teacher Education Council (TEC)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 19

2:00 p.m.

In person & via Zoom

Members Present: Dr. Marty Hatton, Dr. Bob Fuller, Ms. Christi Dillon, Ms. Brittany Hunnicutt

Members Present Via Zoom: Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg, Ms. Ginger Zingara (proxy for Dr. Julia Mortykova), Dr. Blanca Simmons Diez (proxy for Dr. Bonnie Oppenheimer), Dr. Kelly Bennett

1.0 Forum: Guest Speaker

There were no guest speakers.

2.0 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Marty Hatton, Chair of the Teacher Education Council.

3.0 Approval of September 17, 2021 Minutes

Dr. Kelly Bennett approved the minutes from the September 17, 2021 and Dr. Blanca Simmons Diez seconded. The minutes were approved as printed.

4.0 Approval of Agenda

Dr. Hatton presented the agenda for approval that was sent to all members prior to the meeting via email. Dr. Kelly Bennett made the motion to approve the agenda, and Dr. Blanca Simmons-Diez seconded. The motion carried.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 There was no unfinished business.

6.0 New Business

6.1 MDE Data Report

The EPP received survey results from a survey sent to all Mentor Teachers and Teacher Candidates regarding the final internship semester. This data has been presented to multiple committees in following the Continuous Improvement Plan. Dr. Hatton opened the floor for any comments or data that stood out to anyone within the committee. Dr. Simmons-Diez noted that while technology and preparation were noted as low by the Mentor Teachers, in the teacher candidate feedback, the scores for the University Supervisor were low.

Dr. Fuller noted that due to COVID and a large group of students coming through, the ratio of interns to University Supervisor were higher than normal in the Spring and that could account for some of the dissatisfaction

from the teacher candidates. Although, COVID does not need to be an excuse, it does account for things that had to be done more quickly or with technology (versus going into schools). One item the School of Education is working on is the balance and proper use of technology in at distance students or when face to face visits are not able to be conducted and the standardization of what that needs to look like for all students affected.

Additionally, Dr. Hatton stated that there have been two new outside committees that have been formed-the School of Education Advisory Board, comprised of primarily school principals and district representatives and the Clinical Partnership Committee which is comprised of Mentor Teachers. The School of Education has recognized the need of having Mentor Teacher embedded in our processes rather than dictated by the processes and this committee is one of the ways it has committed to listening to those outside the EPP for feedback and best practices. There will also be in-house surveys, being piloted this semester, that will provide feedback on the program, mentor teachers, partnership sites, and University Supervisors that will provide some feedback and be analyzed this Spring for further program improvement.

One of the recommendations that the Accreditation Leadership Team presented was more in person trainings, both for Mentor Teachers and for Teacher Candidates. It is still being discussed as to what those trainings will look like or how best to implement them, however there is a need for more communication from the EPP to our students and to the Mentor Teachers. Dr. Bennett explained that the seminars for students each semester could align with their field placements and cover things not necessarily covered in courses (applying for licensure, etc.) but could also cover topics that are specific to that particular cohort of students. Dr. Hatton mentioned that things like dispositions and technology could be also covered in these seminars. It is an opportunity to present more information to students in a required seminar within their clinical placements. The seminar will also be an opportunity to address topics that the EPP is in the process of adding to the curriculum, but may be delayed by the curriculum review process. Dr. Brian Anderson stated that he was going to be sending comments and questions about the seminars to Dr. Hatton, Dr. Fuller, and Dr. Bennett.

With no further questions or comments, Dr. Hatton asked for the committee to vote on their approval of the four items submitted by the Accreditation Leadership Team & the other committees in the Continuous Improvement Plan. The recommendations are: a. develop EPP wide standardization of requirements for at distance students, b. set up more in person and/or more detailed Mentor Teacher Trainings, c. Set up formal seminars for each residency (with Director of Field Experience setting up separate seminars with Secondary/K12 students), d. Curriculum Map to find gaps in data. Dr. Hatton opened the floor for any comments. Dr.

Fuller stated for clarification purposes changes of the language in the fourth recommendation should read “d. Curriculum Map to address gaps in data.” With that change noted, Dr. Blanca Simmons Diez made a motion and Dr. Brian Anderson seconded. The motion carried.

6.2 Gather/EPP Recruitment Event

Dr. Hatton opened the floor for any feedback regarding the use of Gather for a future recruitment event. Dr. Simmons Diez noted that it is a creative way to use technology that students will enjoy. Also, the set up allows for a video if a presenter is not able to be present, so that offers flexibility with times going forward. There were no concerns noted in using it as a tool in future recruitment events.

Dr. Fuller noted that there may be a better turn out if we can host an event when a Teacher Academy is having class. There does need to be a balance of that which is pre-recorded and what is live for students to interact with during these events. Dr. Hatton discussed a timeline as to when the EPP might be able to get together, either pre-holiday, or before students come back in January. He asked the committee to email him or Ms. Brittany Hunnicutt for which times work best for them so another event can be planned for the Spring.

7.0 Continuous Improvement Report

7.1 School of Education Advisory Board

Dr. Cherie Labat, Superintendent of Columbus Municipal School District, has been asked to served on TEC as a liaison to report on items discussed in the School of Education Advisory Board. Unfortunately, due to scheduling she was not able to attend the meeting, so Dr. Hatton gave a short report as to what was discussed at the meeting. One of the recommendations was brought forward from Dr. Susan McClelland who is over Lowndes County Career Tech regarding offering courses to students in their program or having a course transfer over as credit. Although that is not something that is currently in place, it is something to be considered moving forward.

7.2 Clinical Partnership Committee

Dr. Christy Adams, who has been serving on TEC already, has been asked to serve as a liaison to report on items discussed in the Clinical Partnership Committee. Dr. Fuller gave a short report as to what was discussed in the meeting. He stated that technology was one of the main issues that was discussed at the meeting. Students need to be familiar with the different type of software packages that are out there, know how to communicate with parents electronically, and know basic teaching technology that they can implement from day 1 in the classes. Dr. Shelia Morgan is working on revamping ED 297, and possibly forming a second course that could be taken as an elective to help students with technology. The Clinical Partnership Committee also stated that classroom management is an issue. The EPP must be intentional about exposing our

students to the various techniques that are out there. Teacher candidates also need to become familiar with looking at and analyzing data.

8.0 Licensure Report

Dr. Bennett addressed a memorandum that was released by MDE as it pertains to licensure and the testing waiver. It primarily affects students entering Teacher Education this semester. If a student enters Teacher Education prior to December 31, 2021, they will not have to take any licensure tests for admittance and will not have to take the tests for licensure when they graduate. Therefore students that will be completers in Spring 2022 and Fall 2022 will not have to take any testing required for licensure. For MAT, if they have been accepted into the program by December 31st, then they are exempt from testing as well.

9.0 Standing Committees

No Report was given.

10.0 TEC Action Items

No Action Items at this time.

11.0 Field Experience Report

Dr. Bennett also stated that all Internship and Teacher Education Applications were due Monday (November 15) and schools are already in the process of being requested for the Spring semester.

12.0 Accreditation Update

The Data Review Team (comprised of both the Accreditation and Assessment Committee and the Accreditation Leadership Team) met with Dr. Railsback and responded some of the feedback and questions Dr. Railsback had. One of the primary reasons for probationary status was the EPP's lack of a functioning Quality Assurance Plan. Much work has been done to get this in place along with the Continuous Improvement Plan.

One of the questions Dr. Railsback had pertained how the Continuous Improvement Plan worked and how we were documenting through the process what data was being presented and discussed. Narrative has been added to the Quality Assurance System Document to answer these questions and help clarify the roles of those involved in the Continuous Improvement Process. The QAS Document also includes a rubric in which the EPP will evaluate the QAS itself annually to make sure that all processes make sense and are functional.

The School of Education made the decision to suspend the Educational Leadership program for the Master's of Education. This has gone through both the University Processes as well as MDE. The final student will complete this coming semester, and therefore the suspension of our

program will effectively begin on June 30th. As a result, we do not have to address our Advanced Licensure Stipulations.

13.0 Announcements

14.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Hunnicutt.