Meeting called to order at 11:15 am.

**Central Focus:** Our topic was directed towards the impact that increasing demands has on teacher preparation. The question was raised as to whether this pressure makes effective educators or good student experiences. The discussion was diverted towards how the increasing teacher workload effects teacher education. The following questions were presented to the advisory board: “What can we do? What should we do? At what point do we push back? Why haven’t we pushed back already?” The board raised the following points in response:

- Teaching has become discouraging because of the unrealistic demands presently placed on classroom teachers. This circumstance directly impacts teacher education.
- There is a need for more administrative support and support at higher levels. Mrs. Bird said her Field Experience board has some superintendents that she could speak with on the issue.
- Educators can become so caught up in meeting standards demanded of them through evaluations that they lose sight of why they became teachers.
- To make the best of the demanding situation, teachers can bring their passions into the classroom (reference to the Dave Burgess “Teach Like a Pirate” professional development event at VSU.)
- VSU needs to prepare teacher candidates with realistic expectations without discouraging them.
- ECSE’s alignment with the TKES evaluation method has been one method of virtually preparing our students.
- Adopting the edTPA assessment process is another adaptation for aligning ECSE with current educational trends.
- Dr. Graves said the VSU faculty can provide free professional development to assist with program alignment etc.
- Mrs. Bird said that edTPA will help teachers make better use of data and help with interventions as well as improve teacher images with performance-based feedback (i.e. provide opportunity to see positive impact via manageable and real data.)
- Ms. Moody and Mr. Edwards shared some manageable and effective ways to use the student progress data collected. Ms. Moody explained that her method of using data is to share the individualized information with the students and encourage them to direct their
own goals of increased skills and knowledge. This technique is certainly relevant to the way we should be instructing teacher candidates.

**PAGE Partnership:** Mr. Gillespie gave a brief presentation on PAGE and VSU. PAGE will be increasing its partnership with higher education and becoming more available in the college setting. A PAGE publication designed for students was a suggestion for achieving partnership goals. Mr. Gillespie said PAGE will be doing more presentations in college settings to increase awareness of the many facets of PAGE.

**Announcements:** Dr. Heckaman announced that the department of Early Childhood Education is seeking new certifications.

**In Closing:** The suggestions that have been shared for improving our ECSE program will be itemized and posted on the ECSE website. There will be a department effort to address the suggestions for continual improvement of our teacher preparation effort.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.