

**JAMES L. AND DOROTHY H. DEWAR
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Executive Committee Meeting
MAY 11, 2006**

Chronicle Article

An article, "Sign of the Times," about the American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting Program at Valdosta State will appear tomorrow (5/12) in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Dr. Gunter noted that the author, Vincent Klernan, offered a positive plug for VSU. The article includes photographs of Dr. Nanci Scheetz conducting class.

Technology Memo of Understanding

Dean Gunter indicated he had met with Dr. Andy Brovey and the Technology Committee to work on finalizing the Technology Committee's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Dr. Gunter then introduced Joe Newton, head of the VSU technology group, and presented an organizational chart of the tech department (available on the minutes link of the COE webpage). Allen DeVane of client support services and Ike Barton, who runs Novell® and Windows® for the server side of the system, accompanied Joe Newton. Joe mentioned that other individuals not appearing on the organizational chart, client support personnel Beatriz Potter and Eric Jackson, also provide support services through distance learning which is not a part of Instructional Technology (IT).

Joe attended the COE Executive Committee meeting to field a number of questions or concerns and to provide additional information regarding staff distribution for the College of Education. He indicated that at least two people would be available, on-site if necessary, for the College of Education and a number of individuals may help fulfill this need. Many tasks are accomplished through student assistants who will cross train in various settings throughout the campus. Chris McCuller will also serve as consultant to the entire VSU campus although his primary assignment will be to the College of Education in the Special Education Building. Redirection of services will not affect his assignment.

After briefly reviewing the personnel issue, Joe addressed the backup system which consists of a disk-to-disk-to-tape system. Since the tape system is large, backup on that system occurs less frequently and is more of an archival rather than backup system. The disk backups run on a daily basis. Redundant air conditioning will also be examined as a possible response to hardware needs.

Dr. Brian Gerber voiced some concern regarding innovation and the need to continue support in that area. Joe Newton assured him that the IT personnel are open to innovative ideas including possible multiple platforms such as MacIntosh® support. Joe is actually visiting Apple® headquarters to investigate integration of those tools into the VSU system. Jeremy Scott, manager of Zenworks, will probably help manage the Apple® desktops and other network support in addition to Novell®. Joe noted that Apple® and Lenox® are also being considered for use where needed. IT personnel will be trained across platforms to maximize efficiency.

Joe mentioned the importance of informing IT of new software and hardware support needs and encouraged innovation. To provide stability, he asked faculty to keep IT informed of any new or "on-the-edge" endeavors. IT is no longer a person-

specific organization but is concerned with the entire campus. Security is an issue, and “sandboxes” will be created to allow some separation from the larger system to hopefully keep other segments safe and secure. Ike Barton will have a team of students working with him.

Dr. Karla Hull indicated that COE faculty is somewhat spoiled having Chris McCuller on site. Joe Newton noted that Chris’ tech support in the Special Ed Building is funded through a grant and will be the primary focus of his attention. Joe mentioned that 23-30 staff members are currently under his direction; additional personnel have been requested based on comparisons with peer institutions (West Georgia and Georgia Southern) that employ twice the staff.

Dr. Gunter expressed some concern about the ability to adapt to new initiatives. He did note that the addition of further personnel is a component of the strategic planning process that could possibly create some delays if such additions are funded by grants. Joe addressed the issue and indicated that some ways exist to work with the strategic planning process to avoid such delays. Dr. Gunter questioned the COE competing with other colleges for resources and inquired how to keep the competitive edge currently enjoyed by the COE. Joe indicated that instructional technology support is willing to work with new funding of grants that may represent a competitive edge for computer support in a particular college. According to Joe, student technology fees total 1 million dollars per year; strategic planning should include this significant source of funding. His department will work through the administration process to assign priorities and will use this process as expeditiously as possible. The strategic data base is available for planning purposes 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and documents activities that may be useful when requesting support. Some activities do not work outside the annual cycle but may be processed at other times under Joe’s direction.

Dr. Rey Martinez expressed concern regarding COE computer lab support and asked that it be specifically mentioned in the MOU. He emphasized that instructional support should be in addition to the simple monitoring currently provided by students. Joe Newton noted the request. Dr. Julie Lee mentioned that she appreciated the assistance of Lisa Baldwin and questioned the possibility of cloning to provide that level of additional support.

Student Success Center

Dean Calendrillo has received \$500,000 in funding for the Student Success Center. According to Maggie Roberts, 22 graduate assistants (5 from the COE) will provide academic advising. Each assistant’s contract will run from August to May and will provide \$6000 with remission of fees. Job descriptions are in development, and a center director will be hired. Maggie noted that the role of the COE as consultant is still uncertain; the number of graduate assistants is based on the College of Education claiming 26.7% share of VSU graduates. Maggie thanked department heads for their assistance with 2999 grades. Please alert Maggie to any grade adjustments.

Field Experience Fee

Dr. Donnie McGahee mentioned that student teachers would be assessed a one-time, \$100 field experience fee. Only student teachers will pay the fee, since credit hours assigned among student teachers is consistent for all programs where “student teaching” is required. Since there is a great deal of variation in the number of hours and in the requirements of other field experiences fees outside of student, the \$100 field experience fee will be waived. These other field experiences also do not represent a significant number of individuals. Student teaching is also more consistent in supervisory demand and is relatively consistent in terms of hours and supervisory requirements. Dr. Martinez noted that while his faculty believes students should not be responsible for additional budgetary funds, faculty members might be more supportive of the initiative if funds were directed toward compensation of mentor teachers. Dr. Jane Zahner expressed the need to clarify the exact use of funds. Dean Gunter noted that the student teacher fee as well as the expenditure outline from such funds will require approval from the Board of Regents. Dr. McGahee moved that the motion be approved, and Dr. Gunter clarified that the motion would be to draft a proposal for strategic planning. .

Opening Fall Faculty Meeting

Dr. Gunter stated that Steve Graham, who graduated from VSU with a master’s degree in special education, will be the speaker for the opening faculty meeting in the fall. The agenda for the meeting is in development. Steve will address expectations for students which will speak to broader educational needs outside of special education. He is a first generation college graduate from his family and graduated from Lowndes High School. Steve currently serves as the Curry Ingram chair at Vanderbilt and has expertise in literacy.

During the afternoon of the opening faculty meeting, Dr. Gunter will provide workshops including use of the smart board, Live Text, advising sessions, etc. The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch (hopefully Miller Barbecue). Senate elections and election of representatives to the COE Executive Committee will also take place at the meeting.

Executive Committee Retreat Agenda

The retreat will begin on June 25 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. and will continue until perhaps mid-afternoon of June 27. Dr. Gunter is in the process of developing the agenda for the retreat which should include reflection on collected data, teacher follow-up surveys, and the issue of providing diverse learning environments for student teachers.

Dr. Gunter reminded subcommittees that June 5 is the deadline for the drafts of their portions of the NCATE report.

Live Text Conference

Individuals wanting to attend the Live Text conference in Chicago from July 12-14 include personnel from most departments. The registration deadline is May 25, 2006, and registration must be prepaid. Attendees must arrive July 11 and may choose from several workshops.

Legislative Impact on P-12 Student Achievement

For the past 3 years, Georgia CRCT (**Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests**) scores have been used to track student progress. According to Dr. Gunter, these test scores will help determine which teachers may become master teachers or teacher coaches and be eligible for additional remuneration. When CRCT scores are unavailable, teachers must develop an assessment system to benchmark student behavior and to document progress. According to Fran Watkins, this tracking of P-12 learning represents the next step of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Dr. Gerber noted that this data would be helpful in Partner School research. Dr. Julie Lee mentioned that pre-post assessment would be important to value-added funding. The assessment interval could vary from 6 weeks to the end of the academic year. Dr. Zahner stated that with this measuring system, assistance to individual teachers would become important to help them with required documentation.

Announcements

- Dr. Gunter indicated that the Executive Committee would review and offer a decision on the Memorandum of Understanding from the Technology Committee.
- Next COE Executive Committee – May 18, 2006
- Dr. Martinez announced that new virtual reality training technologies will be presented on campus June 23.
- COE Executive Committee Retreat – June 25-27 (dinner starts ca. 6:30 p.m.)
- Maggie Roberts reminded everyone that effective July 1 Education: Go Get It funding will no longer be available.
- Dr. Gunter reminded everyone of the historical essay writing contest.
- Dean Gunter announced that Dr. Zaccari called an impromptu meeting on next Tuesday soliciting comments from those attending graduation concerning noise level, ability to hear names being called, etc. Dr. Karla Hull reminded everyone that the need to celebrate may represent an important cultural issue. Dr. Martinez noted a lag time in announcing students' names; perhaps two announcers would facilitate the process. Some comments ensued regarding how Dr. Bailey had addressed this issue; apparently the problem is greater than on previous occasions. Dr. Gunter asked that all suggestions on this issue be forwarded to him.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Hilgert