

**DEWAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Executive Committee Meeting
OCTOBER 12, 2006**

Report from 10/11/06 Deans' Council Meeting

Changes in the scheduling of graduation ceremonies will not affect College of Education graduates. Their morning graduation will include ROTC graduates who will participate in a commissioning ceremony during the afternoon of graduation day. Dr. Gunter suggested gathering for coffee at the College of Education prior to the ceremony.

A memo from Dr. Zaccari to the general faculty was distributed and pertained to a delay in the vote to amend the Valdosta State University Statutes.

Renaissance Group Meeting

Drs. Reffel and Gerber noted that the Renaissance Group met in Washington, DC. The Renaissance Group, comprised of 34 teacher preparation institutions, meets biannually. Representatives discussed how their programs were addressing critical teacher shortages in science and math including new formats for teacher preparation such as alternative certification processes. The acting Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education as well as a number of other high-level executives attended the meeting. Dr. Gerber's presentation was one of the few that included student outcome data. Elementary school preparation in science in Georgia was also discussed. The Renaissance Group will next meet at Kennesaw State in the spring.

GACE Field Testing Opportunities

A site participation form, to be returned to the Professional Standards Commission, was distributed for field test administrations during spring 2007 in the following areas:

Behavioral Sciences
Birth to Five
Computer Skill Competency
Early Childhood Special Education General Curriculum
Latin

The GACE test in the area of computer competency will meet a similar need as the AssessOnLine program. The possibility of administering the computer skill competency portion to the ACED 2400 classes was discussed. These field test administrations do not determine cut-off scores and are primarily used for data collection to determine the readability, etc. of content items. Dr. Bauer volunteered the assistance of the Psychology and Counseling Department in helping to establish the curricula for the behavioral sciences and birth-to-five areas. A state consortium has been organized in the birth-to-five area that could be a good source of collaboration. Educator certificates in the behavioral sciences will include new, more specific areas of certification including history, political science, and economics. Dr. Chuck Talor (Psychology & Counseling) is currently participating in the GACE meetings for the birth-to-five certification process, and Dr. David Wasieleski is participating in the GACE process for the behavioral science area.

Request for Degree Programs from Area Superintendents

Dean Gunter mentioned that area superintendents had requested that their teachers pursue advanced degree programs from Valdosta State rather than from on-line programs such as Troy State or Argosy. The issue for teachers is convenience, so alternative delivery methods of instruction at VSU (e.g., weekend or web-based coursework) may afford local area teachers the opportunity to complete such programs. A lack of parking space was cited as another major barrier to completing a VSU advanced degree program.

While no current or new program can circumvent the 36-hour minimal program requirement for the master's degree and the 27-hour minimal requirement for the Ed.S. degree, an on-campus delivery system can be combined with other types of delivery systems to afford students greater accessibility and convenience. Per Dr. Gunter, Dr. Levy has stipulated that any newly created programs will have the same rigor as programs taught entirely on campus.

Costs at Troy State are \$295 per credit hour as compared to approximately \$107 per credit hour at Valdosta State. Even with additional fees, attendance at VSU is less expensive. In some cases, program quality at VSU is much greater than at other institutions. The superintendents appreciate the quality of the VSU degree programs.

National Board Certification

Dr. Reffel noted that a 10% stipend is available for teachers attempting to obtain national board certification in a high-need school. The cost of this national certification process is approximately \$2500 per year. State funds are available, and an initiative may be targeted for VSU to facilitate this national certification process. Currently, MSED 7000 (The Knowledgeable Teacher), taught by Drs. Brasell, meets curricular requirements of the national board office, is LiveText-based and facilities-based, and is approved by the Professional Standards Commission.

Letter of Intent from Communication Disorders

Dr. Gunter shared the 13-page letter of intent submitted to Dr. Levy's office regarding a doctoral program in communication disorders. This program proposal, in part a response to the VSU Strategic Planning Committee, will be shared with that committee as well. The degree is listed as a Ph.D. program through the Dewar College of Education. Whether conferral of the doctor of philosophy degree will be permitted must yet be confirmed. The letter of intent contains describes the program's fit within the institutional mission, the need for the program, budgetary matters such as revenue sources, curriculum delivery, and collaborative efforts. The complete letter of intent will be available via web link to the official COE Executive Committee minutes.

ACED Curriculum Request

The Department of Adult and Career Education circulated a memorandum requesting a curriculum change to move ACED 2400 (Computer Technology for the Workplace) from Area F to Area D (science, math, & technology) of the curriculum as at other Georgia institutions. The course would also place greater emphasis on FrontPage. Following considerable discussion, the Executive Committee temporarily tabled the proposal so that groups such as the Teacher Education Council could review the request and its impact on other Arts & Science areas. Dr. Gerber indicated that the Academic Council should also review the proposal. Dr. Martinez

noted that he met with computer science personnel, and Dr. Redfern found the change acceptable. Committee members felt that placing ACED 2400 in another core area of the approved VSU curriculum required a broader level of approval since a change could impact other departments and/or colleges at VSU. According to Dr. Gerber, the curricular change should be brought before the Teacher Education Council prior to being reviewed by the Executive Committee. Minor changes such as a course name and/or number change do not require a lengthy approval process. The current request represents a weightier matter.

Handling New Data and Reports

Dr. Lee reported briefly on new data to be made available. Summer dispositional data will be posted as of this weekend (10/14-15). The Assessment Committee reviewed some of this data and suggested the rewording of one of the items. The content review reports from Praxis II subtests will also be posted as new information. Dr. McGahee mentioned that the GACE subtest scores, unlike the Praxis II subtest scores, will be sent directly to VSU and will thus avoid an occasional loss of information.

Finalize NCATE Agenda

Dr. Gunter quickly reviewed the final schedule for the NCATE visit and requested additional interviews with students or mentor teachers. The team will arrive on Friday (10/20), work Saturday and Sunday, and conduct interviews on Monday. The team will visit S. L. Mason, Lowndes Middle School, and Valdosta High School on Tuesday. The team will present a summary on Wednesday afternoon. Dr. Lee mentioned that the program self assessment documents should be in 10-point Times New Roman font, should be copied, pasted into LiveText using 10-point Arial font, and then attached to the 10-point Times New Roman document in LiveText for download by the NCATE team.

Announcements

- Dr. Kozol will visit on November 6, 2006 and will deliver his presentation in Whitehead Auditorium from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. should any classes wish to attend. He will conduct an open forum in COE Room 255 on November 6 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. and a book signing from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. following his presentation in Whitehead.
- *The Spectator* will be reviewing the top five majors at Valdosta State University: early childhood education, psychology, biology, etc. Dean Gunter encouraged committee members to read this information as presented in *The Spectator*.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Hilgert