

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2005

As a reminder to everyone - actual documents referred to herein are often linked to the official minutes available at the Minutes link:

<http://education.valdosta.edu/comm/execcom/minutes/ec1.htm>

Technology Committee

Dr. Brovey opened the meeting with the Technology Committee report. According to Dr. Brovey, approximately 2 years ago the committee had considered possible reconfiguration of technology services on campus. Discussions with Joe Newton regarding such reconfiguration were temporarily tabled. The President and Vice-President have been made aware of the Technology Committee findings and the problems surrounding the bifurcation of technology services which included the College of Education and the rest of the campus. This division has led to some duplication of services and confusion among faculty and administrators. Dean Gunter indicated that although approximately \$60,000 have been allocated as emergency funds, the COE budget contains no official line item for technology; and Information Technology supplies a portion of the budget.

The recently restructured Technology Committee offered some recommendations. Following review of these recommendations by the Vice-President, the Technology Committee report will be shared with the various departments and faculty. Possible changes to the administrative structure of Technology Services at VSU are to be explored as well as possible avenues to improve support once all departments have been informed and had an opportunity for discussion. The Technology Committee also discussed a need for a more robust level of support on the server side of technological services. Dean Gunter noted that the desktop side of the support office has improved, and that additional monies may be required to integrate and help offset long-term costs. As a long-term goal, transfer of support to Instructional Technology was unanimously recommended, although the Dean and others in the COE recommend that such costs should be supported by a technology budget that should remain within the COE. Other recommendations included some increase in support of labs in the COE as well as the desire to improve the server side of technical support. Dr. Gunter emphasized that some past issues are not related to personnel but appear to be issues of budgetary constraint. Equipment failures primarily reflect the age of the equipment. Additionally, air conditioning and the housing of the silver units continue to be problematic; the COE Executive Committee also discussed improvement of band width across campus. Changes are still subject to modification as the possibility of bringing Technology Services under the direction of a single unit is explored.

Dr. Bauer suggested that we investigate how the College of Business deals with similar issues. Dr. Griffin recommended that VSU might want to see how other units of the University System (e.g., Georgia Tech) manage technology, and Dr. Bauer noted that consultants from other university units or an outside consultant may be helpful in assessing technological services and offering recommendations for VSU.

The Student Technology Committee met December 7, but a report is not yet available. A report is anticipated at the time of the COE Executive Committee meeting on January 12.

Certification Directors Meeting

Dr. McGahee reported on the 12/05/05 meeting of Certification Directors held in Macon. He provided a document that included comments from Dr. Toth and Dr. Watkins regarding changes in the certification process for the state of Georgia. National Evaluation Systems (NES) is implementing the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE II) process. NES was responsible for the Teacher Certification Test process prior to the use of the Praxis II. Dr. McGahee noted that all leadership programs must further evaluate the revision of the certification process. Educational leadership will continue to use the Praxis II until the knowledge-based structure is reevaluated at the state level for that discipline. Additionally, certification for the master teacher is not yet established, but most other areas are in the process of constructing the new certification exams to be implemented in the fall, 2006. Student/faculty guides as well as most other materials relating to the new GACE will be available before Fall 2006. The deans of the various colleges of education will likewise receive information pertaining to the certification exams for specialized areas (GACE II.). The GACE I will replace the Praxis I and will include less geometry and algebra on the various math portions of the exam. Changes in certification also include elimination of language as related to broad science and social studies so that certification will be more specialized and more aligned with the federal *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Details regarding this Certification Directors meeting are available via web link to the official COE Executive Committee minutes. Dr. McGahee will keep us apprised of relevant information as these certification exam changes are implemented by the Fall 2006 deadline imposed by the Professional Standards Commission.

Dr. Watkins addressed the issue of “highly qualified teacher” and its impact on special education. Special education teachers now act more often as consultants to regular education teachers. To instruct in a specialized, separate classroom, a special education teacher must be “highly qualified.” Assessment instrumentation to help determine the “highly qualified” status is currently under development and may include a number of supplemental measures.

Educator Preparation Academic Advisory Committee (EPAAC) Report

Area F

Dean Gunter reported on the 12/07/05 meeting of EPAAC (a University System of Georgia academic committee). A number of documents pertaining to this meeting are linked to the COE Executive Committee’s official minutes. Recommendations were made regarding Area F in the Georgia system curriculum for all education programs to facilitate transfer of courses across system-wide institutions. A new framework of 9 semester hours in Area F (professional education courses) for all teachers prepared in the University System of Georgia was recommended. A series of three courses will serve as the universal core content of pre-service education programs. Two of these courses will have an area of concentration such as math/science for Early Childhood majors. Dr. Gunter noted that Arts and Sciences may develop some of the coursework in Area F. Documents were circulated regarding a new mathematics course and a new science course in Area F for Early Childhood majors. Dr. Gerber represented VSU on the science subcommittee and helped provide course overview materials for life science, earth science, and physical science. An outline was available for the new math foundations

course for Early Childhood majors. The intent is to create a degree of uniformity in basic courses for students across the university system.

G-STEP Framework

Dean Gunter reported on the development of the Georgia Student Teacher Educator Preparation (G-STEP) framework. This framework, initiated at VSU, has gained wide acceptance through a number of partners including the Georgia Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, and other partners in its development. While this process is in its final stages of development and while VSU has gained recognition, adjustments to standardized measures for observation must still be made to ensure instrument reliability. Dean Gunter noted that the G-STEP framework must still meet approval by the University of Georgia and the Board of Regents.

Double-Double

Double-double refers to the necessary support for instruction in neighboring, off-campus institutions. With a recent 25% increase in demand, Sharon Ketterwell (sp??) has requested an additional \$2 million from the legislature for continuance of funding to support these off-campus curricula.

Expanding Teacher Preparation Programs

Darton State and Macon State have expanded their teacher preparation programs, and Gordon College has submitted a request. Gwinnett will also begin a new teacher education preparation program. While the financial pie for curricular support may be further subdivided, the need to produce more teachers is not diminished. Gwinnett County hired more teachers than the University System of Georgia produced last year. The need for additional educators is substantial.

Expanding On-Line Initiatives

A discussion regarding expansion of on-line courses naturally followed. Dean Gunter encouraged departments to continue to develop these on-line courses.

Defining the MAT

The MAT degree will be used for initial certification, while the Masters in Education will be used for advance degrees. For individuals already certified, details regarding the MAT degree are available via the official Minutes link.

Research

Research was also discussed at the EPAAC meeting. Dr. Gunter shared a draft of the research agenda of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. The draft calls for large-scale, cross-institutional studies and the use of similar language and operationally-defined terms across institutions for easier communication, collaboration, and facilitation of such a research agenda.

Course/Curriculum Change

Dr. Leech submitted requests for curriculum changes in the Educational Leadership program. Proposed requirements for outcomes and assessments include a modification that would eliminate the required thesis and replace it with a second field experience course. Additionally, changes to the field experience course would include the development of a portfolio. An advanced technologies course would be required to fulfill the advanced technology training mandated by the Georgia Board of Regents for aspiring leaders and certified school administrators. The 3-hour technology course is offered on-line. In addition, special education law for ed leaders would be included in the curriculum as well as a course regarding adult learning and assessment. The Psychology Department would possibly offer the adult learning and assessment course. The final version of these curriculum changes and course additions should be linked to the official Minutes as approved by the COE Executive Committee.

Programs Reviewed by NCATE

Dean Gunter reported for Dr. Lee on the following programs whose special approval standards have been addressed by their respective accrediting agencies:

- Early Childhood Education
- Special Education: General Curriculum Specialist
- Special Education: Adapted Curriculum
- Special Education – General Curriculum/Early Childhood Education
- Media Specialist
- Spanish Education
- French Education
- School Psychology
- Reading Education
- Instructional Technology (Technology Applications)

Dr. Bauer added that faculty for the School Counseling Program are in the process of submitting a folio to CACREP.

Concern Form

Several revisions were made to the Concern Form developed by Maggie Roberts in cooperation with the Field Experience Committee. These revisions included more specific wording and consequences so that the action plan and its importance are emphasized. The final, revised version is available via link to the Executive Committee Minutes. The Concern Form process was approved 7-4 (1 opposed, 3 abstaining).

Announcements

- Graduation will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 10, 2005. Faculty representatives should be present.
- Dean Gunter noted the dinner to be held at his house on December 10, 2005 for COE Executive Committee members and guests.
- Dr. Gunter reminded department heads to have someone responsive to student and faculty issues through the grade reporting process.
- Dean Gunter wished everyone well over the holidays and wished them safe travel.

The process of discussion for this meeting was presented in less detail in order to convey more concisely the topics presented. Hopefully a review of this report will serve to bridge the Fall and Spring Semesters. The next COE Executive Committee meeting will be January 12, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

Larry Hilgert
Psychology and Counseling