

Education Leadership: August 13, 2012 10:00 AM: University Center: Magnolia Room

Members Present: Robert Green, Steven Smith, Gerald Siegrist, James Leon Pate, Rudo Tsemunhu, Donald W Leech, and Albert Sikes Gibbs.

Item #1: PSG recommended areas of improvement: Standard 4: Diversity

Discussion: Dr. Pate opened the discussion by informing all attendees about the need for the program to improve on the NGATE diversity standard 4. He distributed NGATE standard-4 documentation and some of the changes made to improve diversity. He urged members to discuss possible ways to improve diversity. Steve explained that the issue of diversity is difficult to resolve because the rural areas surrounding VSU have a problem of a transient Latino population. He also stated that the Department of Education has set up a Migrant Office to help meet the needs of migrants into the region.

The group also discussed the issue of selecting new interns into our program. This process is flawed because VSU faculty are not involved in selecting students, this is done at the school district level by the superintendents.

Action: Steve suggested that we encourage superintendents to reach out to the program to help select diverse candidates. Another suggestion was to place interns into diverse contexts. It was also suggested that we add a new assessment that incorporates language of disability. Members stated that since we cannot change set activities, it would be more feasible to add activities to the ten-assessment PSG form. The activities must be tied to existing assessments.

Leon has already changed some of the language for Standard four to meet the diversity requirement.

Another member suggested adding the diversity issue to the checklist.

Steve is going to work with school systems and RESA and urge them to consider student diversity when selecting students for our program.

Item #2: Assessments:

Discussion: Albert raised the issue Inter-rater reliability with regards to intern assessments.

Ronny suggested setting a common standard across the board. He stated at the new students orientation event, he asks his students to underline anything that requests action from the their packet.

Al shared his situation with 5 interns in the same school. One is in the spring semester and four are in the fall semester.

Action: All members suggested that in a situation like that all students should be encouraged to work collaboratively e.g. by working on the same standard, students can interview the superintendent at the same time. However, students should satisfy the requirement of 36hrs of observation. Members suggested that this could be problematic as some students failed to meet the 36 hours observation requirement. It was also suggested that students who spend most of the time in the classroom teaching, should carryout some activities during the summer when they are not teaching. Students should be encouraged to be creative to meet the PBA requirements. Ronny emphasized that student documentation should be supervised and signed. All members agreed that two or three sight visits over a two-semester period are adequate. Internship supervisors were encouraged to establish some professional relationship with the local systems by reaching out to county offices.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM