

Dewar College of Education Executive Committee Proceedings

July 9, 2009

Members in Attendance: Drs. Phil Gunter (presiding), Robert Bauer, Brian Gerber, Mike Griffin, Julia Lee, Don Leech, Rey Martinez, Lynn Minor, Ruth Stonestreet (for Dr. Corine Myers-Jennings), Julia Reffel, Barbara Stanley, Mr. Blake Pearce, Ms. Maggie Roberts, and Dr. Larry Hilgert.

Minutes from the COE Executive Committee meeting of June 25, 2009 were approved and can be viewed at <http://www.valdosta.edu/coe/minutes> with links to the various referenced documents.

Christa McAuliffe Award

Dr. Gunter mentioned that the Department of Early Childhood Education is a finalist (approximately 3-5 nationally) for the Christa McAuliffe Award and congratulated Dr. Minor and the ECE faculty. The Department of Early Childhood Education is recognized for the use of data to make program decisions and to demonstrate impact on learning by students enrolled in the program. Drs. Lee, Minor, and Gerber will preparing a final report which is due July 31. Dr. Gerber has been successful in receiving this grant in the past. The award is given in October with recipient notification in August.

Deans' Council Meeting – July 8, 2009

While the Valdosta State University budget will be cut by an additional 3%, the VSU College of Education is in relatively good financial shape. California educators have taken an 8.5% decrease in pay, approximately 27,000 teachers will lose their jobs, and an additional 10,000 teachers have been temporarily released from their duties. With a probable increase in enrollment of approximately 5-7% at VSU, new faculty positions will likely focus on core classes. New faculty should also be well-trained in advisement.

Alicia Roberson will help provide training in the use of Degree Works, the new advising software. The Executive Committee nominated Maggie Roberts to receive training, and Dr. Gunter asked her to select a second individual to participate in the training workshop.

The suggestion was made to allow students who have planned to participate in commencement exercises but fail to complete all degree requirements to still take part in commencement activities if they lack **6 or fewer** hours of coursework. Invited guests, who may have to travel some distance, should be considered in the decision-making process. Dr. Bauer asked that each student's major appear in the printed program beside the student's name. This information is readily available from the registrar's office and would personalize the printed program for the student and for the student's family.

A handout detailing the Regents Test and remediation schedule for fall 2009 was distributed. A data review will designate all majors with 45 hours or more who have not met Regents' testing requirements. Since registration is scheduled for the week of August 13, department heads asked if the Office of the Registrar could provide a list of students not meeting the testing requirements so that holds could be placed on those students' registrations. A link to the Regents Test and remediation schedule is provided in the official minutes of the COE Executive Committee (web address listed above).

The possibility of furlough days was notated in 2009-2010 VSU faculty contracts, and Dr. Gunter indicated that this possibility does still exist for state university employees. As reported by the Georgia Department of Education (DOE), employees at the DOE offices in Atlanta plan for 15 mandatory furlough days. In the Deans' meeting, Dr. Levy stated that VSU administration currently plans no furlough days.

Faculty Contracts

Dr. Gunter reminded department heads that faculty contracts are due at the Office of the President on July 13. After July 13, contracts must be sent to the Board of Regents Office and would probably necessitate an explanation for the delay.

Department Of Education Meeting

At the Georgia Department of Education meeting, Dr. Gunter learned that the state of Georgia has 37 vacancies for early childhood teachers, approximately 27 positions available for special education teachers, 3 openings for biology teachers, 2 for chemistry teachers, and 24 math teachers. Given these statistics as well as employment data from other states, teaching does not appear to be a recession-proof occupation. In Clay County, Florida, all music art, and physical education teachers will not be returning to work.

Program Enrollment Review

When compared to last year's data, Dr. Gunter indicated that the teaching load FTE productivity appears lower for the College of Education. Although there was some question regarding the integrity of FTE data, low enrollment programs must be justified. Classes with 6, 7, or 8 students must be balanced by larger classes of 30, 40, or 50 students. Again, the integrity of database information at the system and university levels was discussed. Discrepancies do seem to exist.

Strategic distribution of resources must be carefully considered with data-based decision making and an emphasis on collaboration. Super section classes will benefit departments and programs. Reassigned time for faculty research must be justified. Reassigned time for research will not be possible for faculty having no publication history over the past several years.

Dr. Julie Lee mentioned that enrollment in supersize classes may not be a good idea for first semester freshmen; that class sizes should perhaps be smaller for beginning students. Undergraduate classes with enrollments of fewer than 25 students would be considered small and will be carefully examined. Graduate courses are governed by different guidelines. In some cases, graduate course size is limited by accreditation requirements (e.g., practicum and internship courses). The size of some programs makes their continuation difficult to justify. Dr. Gunter mentioned the Masters of Education and Education Leadership with four applicants being considered for fall semester.

Updates on Hiring

The interview process is currently underway for one of two speech language pathology positions. Interviews should be conducted as expeditiously as possible. Interview nominees from the Department of Psychology and Counseling should be available soon, according to Dr. Bauer. Julie Russert and Aaron Powell are scheduled to interview for the Georgia On My Line (GOML) position. Dr. Gunter asked faculty and department heads who are a part of these online programs to be available for the scheduled interviews of these two applicants.

Retreat Agenda

Dr. Gerber has made arrangements for the retreat at Quail Branch Lodge on Monday, July 20, and Tuesday, July 21. The lodge is located at the last Georgia exit on I-75 South; directions will be provided via e-mail. A review of the current data will take place Monday morning with lunch provided at noon. Data summary work will begin on Tuesday at 9 a.m. at a working breakfast. Opportunities to share data and finalize the report should be completed by lunch with action plans developed by Tuesday afternoon. Wireless access is available and access to LiveText will be necessary.

Dr. Bauer's Travels

Dr. Bauer presented a brief travelogue from his European visit to the Czech Republic and Germany this past summer. The group included 28 students and 3 VSU faculty as part of a summer program at Palacký University in Olomouc. Of the 28 students, 26 were from Valdosta State University, and most of them are psychology majors. Dr. Jim Reffel taught educational psychology, Dr. Larry Wiley taught industrial organizational psychology, Dr. Bauer taught seminars, and Jana Kvintova (from Olomouc) taught abnormal psychology. In addition to instruction, visits were scheduled to Prague, Austria, Vienna, and Kharkov. A visit to Auschwitz was also scheduled. Dr. Bauer then traveled to Chemnitz, Germany, where Valdosta State University is being considered for an exchange program. Since next year marks the 5th anniversary for the Czech Republic – Valdosta State program, Dr. Bauer hopes to increase departmental faculty participation in a meaningful way and perhaps extend a participatory invitation to Dr. Schloss.

Announcements

Blake Pearce encouraged everyone to visit the current exhibit of student artwork. The exhibit was part of a studio workshop for middle grades education students and will be available throughout the week.

Other announcements:

July 20-21	COE Executive Committee data review and planning session
July 23	TQP grant due
July 31	Final Christa McAuliffe Award document due
July 30-31	USG education deans' annual meeting
August 1	Graduation at 10 a.m.
August 10	University convocation and luncheon
August 10	DDD at 3 p.m.
August 11	Faculty meeting and professional development activity for COE begins at 9 a.m.
August 13	Orientation begins at 10 a.m.
August 17	First day of fall semester 2009 classes

August 10 thru 20 – Dean Gunter requests that all members of the COE Executive Committee be on campus each business day.

The next scheduled meeting of the COE Executive Committee is August 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Hilgert