

Minutes of Childhood Education Meeting—February 28, 2008

Members present—Dr. Gynn Senokossoff, Dr. Michael Sampson, Dr. Zafer Unal, Dr. Cynthia Leung, Dr. Guda Gayle-Evans, Dr. Deanna Michael, Dr. Kathe Rasch, Dean Vivian Fueyo, Dr. Don Cunningham, Ms. Jennefer Khattabi

Members absent—Dr. Margaret Hewitt, Dr. Juanita Fountain

1. Approval of November 26 and January 28 meeting—Motion to approve and seconded.
2. Reading Master's program review
3. FLaRE meetings—Dr. Senokossof attended the meeting in January. The anticipated grants from Just Read Florida were cancelled due to budget cuts. The dean at UCF briefed the group regarding TEACH grants. Dean Robinson has been asked by AACTE to work on the committee to review the guidelines for these federal grants. The state of Florida has access to these grants. This grant provides funding for undergraduate students in high need fields (reading, math, science, special education, elementary education) to access \$4000 per year for four years. Graduate students can get up to \$4000 per year with a cap of \$8000. Grants carry an obligation to teach in a high poverty school in four of their first eight years. This can be prorated for part-time students. If students do not teach in a high need school, this converts to a loan and they have to pay it back.

Qualifications:

3.25 GPA or be in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile (undergraduate or graduate).

It starts this July and monitored through the DOE. Guidelines for the grants are out. There is \$325 million in the fund. There will be an on-line application. The grant does not come up for review for 5 years.

If they are already a teacher, they have to agree to go to a high needs school. Dr. Cunningham will email the guidelines to the graduate advisors. He will be the point person for understanding the guidelines. This also has to be coordinated with the Pell grants.

Dr. Unal can put a notice out to students and Ms. Bea Smith also needs to know.

The supervisors from Just Read Florida gave the workshop that they do with schools. They are not cutting any funding to K-12 schools for the Just Read money for the No Child Left Behind money. Grants would be reduced each year from the federal govt, but they have been able to cut other funds instead. When we first started working with the courses and their professional development. We should probably go back with the district leadership to meet and align the professional development from the district with our course syllabi.

At a recent luncheon with the reading faculty and district personnel, Connie Calosi wanted to meet with district language arts coordinators and the USFSP faculty. The components of the on-line course is put out by Beacon, but they were not recommended By Just read for whole district professional development. The on-line covers competence 1, 3-5. Just Read is having a leadership conference every summer, June 29-July 2. They are encouraging 3 participants per school. They will have a Math/science and an RTI institute, novice and advanced coaches, 4-5 academy, 6-12 intervention academies. July 20-24<sup>th</sup> includes the K-12 literacy institute. These conferences are in Orlando.

4. Dual track—Dr. Michael

In looking at the new program, we can get the undergraduate work in the program down to 10 hours with the substitute course. The three undergraduate courses would be mathematics, social studies, and creative experiences, standards based education. A new science and social foundations courses at the graduate level would be written. It is still an option to mesh it with the MAT, but that would be more difficult.

The dual track program is now up to 70 hours. This creates situations where students have to assume a lot of debt.

Dr. Michael believes we have to make a decision by spring as to whether or not we combine the graduate programs. (dual track and MAT) Nothing will be modified until the transition plan for the undergraduate program is developed in the fall.

We will put this back on the Childhood Education meeting in the agenda. Dean Fueyo asks that we wait to make decisions until we get the new undergraduate program fully approved. Next steps could be Dr. Michael share what she believes would be the course substitution scheme for the Dual Track program.

5. Dr. Gayle-Evans –The field experience for Teaching Diverse Populations is 15 hours of experience in the schools. Students have to be fingerprinted, it costs \$60. They have to go to the school board. They are delayed in both scheduling and financially.

Dr. Gayle-Evans would want to establish an emergency fund for showing real need. Private schools do not require students to be fingerprinted. This problem occurs for a few students for which this is a financial hardship. Dean Fueyo proposes that they could be placed in private schools for the first experience so that they have another semester to get this done by Level 1 internship.

Dr. Gayle-Evans will have Ms. Erin Dunn (Director of Financial Aid) come to her class to make information available regarding financial aid.

6. Dean Fueyo met with the state university deans and the new commissioner, Eric Smith. The deans wanted to see how they could help for issues important to him. The commissioner outlined his priorities:

- a. To address teacher production

b. To address teacher quality

Florida had to hire 23000 new teacher in 06/07. The deans raised the importance of retention as well as recruitment. We had 170 graduates last year from the Colleges of Education. This is very small compared with the other state institutions. The other area of need is the preparation of school administrators, particularly asst. principals. The commissioner solicited the dean's advice on the issue of community colleges giving degrees in education. We also met Dr. Francis Haycock, the new K-12 commissioner.

The are both concerned about supporting schools not making AYP, and looking for creative solutions.

After the commissioner left, the deans met and discussed the DOE/NCATE relationship. We are now required to meet 2 sets of standards for accreditation. Kathy Hebda and Dr. Genae Crump are currently revising the state protocol. NCATE accreditation is in statute for state universities to be nationally accredited.

DOE will send the existing protocol. They are going to send the changes they are recommending. It will not impact this site visit, but it is positive that they are soliciting input.

They are also working on cleaning up and making the data base more accessible for research purposes and retention analysis.

Dean Fueyo received a letter of resignation from Dr. Marilyn Bartlett. Dr. Bartlett is on research leave until the end of this semester with full salary and benefits.

Next meeting is March 20, 2008 at 9:30.