

## Central Teacher Education Network (CTEN)

### Program Meeting Notes

October 27, 2022, 3:15 – 4:30 pm via WebEx

**In Attendance:** H. Abadiano, K. Bantley, B. Budaj, D. DeCarlo, J. DeLaura, Flinn, B., A. Greenwell, L. Frazee, R. Fuentes, T. Goh, J. Kara-Soteriou, E. Koulidobrova, A. Loiselle, L. Jacobson, K. Love, C. Mulcahy, K. McGrath, L. McMahan R. Fuentes, P. Talty, J. Thomas, J. Turner, J. Visone.

**CTEN meeting minutes** - approval of September 22, 2022 minutes. Motion moved (K. McGrath). Minutes accepted

#### **Announcements (CTEN Director, C. Mulcahy)**

- Research Reassigned time proposals due October 31, 2022
- Professional Program Reception and Orientation being held on Wednesday, November 9 at 3:00pm in the Constitution Room in Memorial Hall.

#### **Schoolwide Announcements**

- An update on the Professional Program Application: all the decision letters have gone out. As of now we have a total of 87 applications 92 with music. Music typically get admitted a little later due to some of their requirements. Of the 87 students accepted, 82% have been fully admitted or conditionally admitted which means they will be able to register for classes. 5 denials, 3 withdrawals, and 3 deferrals. Slightly lower number of applications than last fall. Spring application becomes available Dec 1, 22.
- We are immersed in Student Teaching applications for Spring 2023. Barbara B. is working with the program coordinators to be sure all applications are considered appropriately and will reach out to teacher candidates if necessary.
- We are hoping to hold mock teacher interviews for the student teachers the week after Thanksgiving.
- January 17, 4:30-6pm is the tentative date for the edTPA orientation. Typically, students are addressed as a group but if it might be better to put them in breakout groups, we can consider that.
- We are not expecting any student teaching appeals. As long as they have evidence of completing Praxis II exams, they are allowed to move forward. Feb 15, 2023 will be deadline for Fall 2023 student teaching applications.
- What happens if students don't meet the conditions for acceptance? The conditions are made very clear. If a student is not meeting the conditions, we would re-evaluate the student's progress prior to acceptance to the program. Low GPA may be a reason for them not meeting the conditions for acceptance.
- Next Tuesday the Provost is meeting with the Graduate Studies Committee. If your graduate program does not have a representative attending the meeting, give Laura Jacobson comments and questions so they can be asked on your behalf. It is being held in Davidson 107.

#### **New Business**

##### Conversation about the College of Health and Rehabilitations Sciences

- Kathleen Bantley (Chair) and Lisa McMahan from the task force for the new College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, joined us.
- Kathy provided information about the purpose of the taskforce and her role on it. One of the primary tasks is to recommend which programs and departments should be housed in or affiliated with the new College. Many departments and programs across the institution expressed their interest in being affiliated with it in some way. They may not necessarily belong to the college itself but may be involved with the community. Want to be sure all departments have a voice.
- The taskforce has no power other than providing recommendations.
- Reaching out to all departments because the taskforce wants to have the faculty's guidance and to understand the faculty's vision for the College.
- The timeline for sending the taskforce's recommendations to the Faculty Senate for approval has shifted because so many departments and faculty are interested in meeting with the taskforce.

- The following are questions that were raised by faculty and Kathy's responses:
- A point of clarification was raised: the purpose of the taskforce you are gathering interest from programs that would like to be affiliated with this new School. Your task is not to make recommendations about whether the School should exist or not. The School is already in place, has been approved. Is that my understanding? And now the taskforce is to gather information.
  - It is K. Bantley's understanding that the University's administration has reached out to the Board of Regents and it is a go that we can do it. And, yes, the taskforce isn't asking should there be a School or not. We are asking what programs you recommend being a part of the College. The College is happening.
- It is called College of Health. What is the difference between College and School?
  - Probably asking the wrong person. Honestly, I don't know the answer. I can find out.
- Could you talk about the community clinic? What is its purpose, what services will it offer, and to whom will the services be offered?
  - The vision of the new College and the community clinic is to address the health care crisis we are in and also to create experiential learning opportunities for our students. This allows students to complete clinic and hands-on experiences on-campus. Health care services will be offered with the intention of supporting and assisting the underserved New Britain population and offer free services.
  - Looking to do a pilot clinic in the Spring. This must be done very well. We need to do so in a way that builds trust with the community we wish to support and serve. The clinic will offer basic screenings. Will do community outreach to bring people in. Begin small and then add more services: vaccine clinics, BMI, blood glucose, blood pressure, perhaps mental health and depression screening. The Go-Baby-Go clinic might be in the clinic. We are still waiting for the lawyers to tell us what we can and cannot do. To offer any type of community clinic there are liability issues that need to be met.
- Do we know where it will be located?
  - Ideally, they would like to build a new building. For now, the lower part of Copernicus will be renovated. Eventually the clinic would move into the new building. The pilot clinic will be in Copernicus.
- Do we know which departments will certainly join the new College given the nature of the clinic and the college?
  - We have an idea of some, for example, Nursing. They have agreed that they would like to be a part of it so we will have further conversations with them. We have also talked to Physical Education and Human Performance regarding exercise science and athletic training. The Physical Education faculty are concerned as to whether departments will be broken up. This is the kind of information we are trying to find out. We want the faculty to tell us. What are the pros and cons to being broken up?
  - With the recommendations that the taskforce creates, we will come up with recommendations based on the information we are hearing. If we reject a thought or an idea, we will document our reasons for that. We will include a rationale that includes reasons from the taskforce as well as points made by the department. The department's voice will be in the recommendations too.
  - The taskforce has also spoken with the departments of counseling and social work. Engineering as well as several programs in CLASS (world languages, economics, communication, and psychological sciences) have also been in conversation with the taskforce.
- The BOR is asking us to streamline, and this College will cost money. Where is the money coming from? Is there a financial analysis demonstrating how this will save money or bring in money to the university? Will it increase student enrollment?
  - Half the taskforce is faculty. But no one has yet been asking this question. We have not received specifics, but we do know there will be public funding, private funding and reallocation of funds. I agree that the financial and budget components will need to be discussed in more detail. Depending

on what the lawyers say it will also impact grant funding. Many questions still unanswered. Regarding enrollment and students coming out of SEPS, it seems that when prospective students are looking for health related programs, some of our programs get buried based on the name of the School. A way to remarket our health programs. It is also based on trends we are seeing across the country regarding healthcare programs.

- Those of us in teacher education are also concerned because this new College will take away half of our students and faculty in SEPS. What does it mean for our School? Will it remain or will it be absorbed by another School? Has anyone discussed this concern? The School of Education will be really small can it exist as a standalone School?
  - That is a legitimate concern. I can pose this to the Provost and the President. To be clear that is not the purview of the taskforce. Eventually the admin will need to be answer to why they made the decisions they made.
  - If something comes up, bring it to our attention as soon as possible. When we draw up our recommendations, it will be included
  - Recommendations will be shared with faculty when shared with the faculty senate.

#### Cost of finger printing and background checks

- Concerns have been voiced, once again, by students and faculty regarding the cost of finger printing and background checks. The Dean is aware of student concerns. He will find out if there might be funds that could help defray some of the student cost.
- Students participating in NextGen have finger printing and background checks paid for by the state. For students who are coming through the Professional Program but not in NextGen, the financial burden is on them. We do not have a formal process where students can formally request financial assistance from the Dean. If they do have a financial hardship, they are encouraged to speak with someone in the Dean's office. The Dean's office will then bring it through financial aid.
- Students have voiced the concern that there are different fees and requirements for different districts. Students who are financially struggling are feeling this the most. We should be talking to our community partners about this and perhaps the state police too.
- B. Budaj agrees that the different requirements from district to district is notable.
- School districts are concerned with the safety of their students, so their vetting process is understandable. Their students must come first. There is no reciprocity from district to district when it comes to finger printing. In fact, it is illegal for one district to do finger printing for another district.
- It is our understanding that once a student has been fingerprinted in a district, they should not have to do it again if they go back to that district the next year. New Britain does have an annual quick recheck.
- Perhaps we should be thinking about what we can do to support them. What can we change at our level? What barriers can we remove?
- The CCSU police cannot do the finger printing for the school districts.

#### Proposed Revisions to the MAT Admission Policy

- The revisions have already been shared with the CTEN steering committee and the MAT faculty. The feedback from those groups has been shared with the Dean.
- This is an opportunity for CTEN representatives to look it over and share thoughts and questions about the proposed revisions.
- A concern was raised about the removal of the interview and the Praxis II test. This is a concern for many of the content areas as it makes it difficult to assess the content knowledge of the candidates. This is especially true for World Languages as an idea of a candidate's language proficiency needs to be ascertained.
- The Dean is fine with leaving the interviews a part of the admissions process. He would like a SEPS faculty member, in addition to a disciplinary faculty, to be in the interview. In a meeting with the MAT

faculty, it was acknowledged that when there was an MAT director, that person was always in the interviews.

- Another concern is the removal of the essay. Southern also requires an essay that checks for proficiency so not sure why this has been removed. Writing, with the use of evidence, is a requirement in many of the disciplinary Standards.
- The Praxis II will be a preferred requirement. They also do not need to have a 3.00 GPA in the content area. How then do we check for content? Are both of these requirements being removed?
  - As the proposal stands, yes.
- For certain disciplines, the state requires a certain number of credits in certain areas to meet state requirements for certification. Who is going to be doing the screening to make sure all the requirements are met?
- For CAEP accreditation the cohort needs a 3.00 GPA. We don't want to forget this.
- Regarding the essay, the state regulations for elementary education require an interview and an essay. Is that the same for secondary education?
- It was suggested we merge the two statements about the essay, so we still check for evidence to write at the graduate level.
- Because each discipline has its own state requirements, might it possible to specify the departmental requirements on the admissions information. This way candidates will know what they need to have.
- A concern of Dean Wolff is the removal of the Praxis II scores. We don't want students to come through our programs and then not be able to get certified due to not being able to pass those tests. Perhaps this is something we can monitor. If we notice it is a problem, we may then want to revisit this admissions requirement.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

- Appeals and student support: **Jessica Edwards**
  - No appeals to report. This semester we are focusing on student support. We have meeting Oct 28<sup>th</sup> about how we can best support students.
- Assessment: **Tan Leng Goh**
  - Continue to work on the Exit survey created last year.
  - We have not received a formal report from CAEP. The Dean did participate in an exit interview with CAEP. He learned that CCSU will not have any stipulations. Only AFIs remain. The report should come close to Thanksgiving.
- Partnership: **Jeremy Visone**
  - Melissa Gunter elected to the committee.
  - Barbara B., Paula and Cara will discuss new membership on our District Partner's advisory board and consider different tiers of partnership.
  - Barbara, Leah and Cara will meet to look at how we want to proceed with the field placement alignment work.
- Policy and advocacy: **Amanda Greenwell**
  - Had a productive meeting with the Dean and Donna DeCarlo about a funding bill we have drafted. We are considering how best to share this bill to get support for it. We considered reaching out to AACTE to learn how to present it most effectively to the Higher Education Committee and the Education Committee.
  - At that meeting we had also mentioned the idea bringing back the Orientation we used to do for students newly accepted into the Educational Professional Program. Donna DeCarlo has already acted upon that suggestion.

Meeting adjourned 4:30pm.