

Central Teacher Education Network (CTEN) Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2026, 3:15 – 4:30 pm HB 313 and via Zoom

In Attendance: H. Abadiano, J. Barile, B. Clark, C. Ciotto, M. Ciscel, A. Correia, S. Czekalski, D. DeCarlo, A. Fournier, R. Fuentes, A. Greenwell, T. Goh, M. Gunter, A. Loiselle, K. McGrath, D. Mortensen, C. Mulcahy, L. Scharfenberger, L. Shaw, D. Sianez, N. Takemae, P. Talty, J. Thomas, D. Torres-Hill, J. Visone, R. Wolff, & L. Zidani-Eroglu

CTEN Meeting Minutes - Approval of November 20 minutes. Motion moved (B. Clark & J. Visone). Minutes accepted.

Spring Meeting Dates:

- March 26, 2026
- April 30, 2026

General Announcements:

- Welcome Dr. Daisy Torres-Hill, Assistant Dean for Professional Programs and Certification Officer
- Update on the Review Committee on Procedures and Practices in Teacher Education (C. Mulcahy)
 - Four (4) subgroup committees have been meeting and planning a full group meeting. Faculty Senate wants the report to be submitted by March 30th.
- [Certification Update](#) (P. Talty)

Dean's Office Announcements & Updates:

- Certification Officer Role (J. Barile)
 - Paula will be phasing out as Certification Officer and training Daisy on this role
- Partnership – Assistant Dean (J. Barile)
 - Work will continue as the new Assistant Dean has begun the role in January.
- Strategic Planning Committee (J. Barile)
 - Shared email to SOE faculty on School of Education Strategic Plan
 - Question – how does the strategic plan draft align or fit into the newly proposed Central Polytechnic Institution?
- Master of Arts in Teaching, MAT (J. Barile)
 - Graduate Policy Committee meeting outcomes:
 - *Basic Skills Testing*: This remains a state requirement; however, instead of requiring proof at the time of application, it will now be required later in the program (prior to the student teaching application). This will need to be clearly communicated between the student and the MAT Director/Advisor.
 - *Essay*: The formal essay has been replaced with a statement of intent, which is now part of the graduate application process.
 - *References*: Rather than submitting two letters of recommendation, applicants are now required to provide the names and contact information for two professional references.
 - *Interview*: The interview requirement will remain in place. Candidates will continue to participate in an interview with the School of Education in collaboration with their intended certification area.
 - Prior to the meeting Dean Barile met with the Associate Deans of CLASS & SEST to discuss intended changes before submitting to Graduate Policy Committee for review and approval
- Professional Program Application (D. DeCarlo)
 - Spring 2026 application closed on February 10
 - 95 applications in total (compared to 78 applications in Spring 2025)
 - Technology & Engineering Education had increased with 8 applicants (compared to 2 in Spring 2025)
 - Elementary Education had an increase with 31 applicants (compared to 27 in Spring 2025)
 - Program decisions are due by March 14 via spreadsheet share by Donna
 - Decision letters are planned to be sent out over spring break
- Graduate Showcase: March 4th (D. DeCarlo)
 - Enrollment Management was tasked to explore a new format and to move away from the traditional graduate open house. Each school will be hosting their own versions of the “open house” event.
 - School of Education: Wednesday, March 4th 5pm-7pm in the Barnard Hall Community Room

- Event overview: hear from the Deans office staff, department chairperson or designee speaks about programs offerings, then opens to traditional tabling and refreshments to meet and discuss with interested parties
- 10 students have registered as of last check (before another email push)
 - Emails were sent to undergraduate students in Elementary Education, Early Childhood, Technology & Engineering Education and ALL current student teachers
- Invite was sent to various partnership districts – 2 confirmed and shared with their staff (Wallingford & Waterbury)
- Professional Program Reception & Orientation (D. DeCarlo)
 - Thursday, April 9th at 3:30pm – 5pm in Founders Hall, Davidson Hall
 - Save the Date will be sent to faculty & staff
 - Students will be notified once decision letters are sent (following spring break)
- Spring Workshops/Programming for Students (D. DeCarlo)
 - Sophomore Year Workshops (Secondary & K-12 students)
 - Wednesday, 3/25 at 2:00pm
 - Tuesday, 3/31 at 1:30pm
 - Overview: meet the deans office, start the discussion about the professional program application, future field experience, and brief overview of student teaching semester
 - Professional Program Application Workshops (all pre-ed students)
 - Monday, 4/13 at 2:00pm
 - Wednesday, 4/15 at 9:30am
 - Thursday, 4/16 at 11:00am
 - Overview: discuss the professional program application process, requirements and next steps. Open
 - Cross Endorsement Workshop (all education students)
 - Monday, 4/20 at 3pm
 - Overview: open to all education students who are interested in cross endorsement or looking to learn more. Reviewing the current CSDE process.
- Student Teaching Update (A. Fournier)
 - Spring 2026 semester has 164 student teachers in the field
 - Fall 2026 application closed on February 15
 - Currently we have 62 applicants
 - Interviews are scheduled to be held on the week of March 23
 - Fall 2026 Student Teacher Orientation
 - Monday, 8/24 at Hilltop Café (time TBD)
- Spring 2026 Field Experience (A. Fournier)
 - Currently placing a total of 292 students for field experience across all disciplines

Discussion about Praxis scores and Student Appeal Policy (C. Mulcahy)

- Waiting to hear back from the CSDE on what they are requiring of EPPs
- Pre-covid appeal process for student teaching
 - Elementary: should have taken all Praxis II and CT Foundations of Reading assessments but were not required to pass all, just 2-3. If evidence was shown that they have taken the tests.
 - Secondary: must have taken and passed Praxis II. If not, then student could appeal; a representative from their program would speak on their behalf to the committee.
- [Appeals Policy Webpage](#)
 - Revision date shows 2016, but CTEN did revise the admission process to the Professional Program in 2021.
- Open discussion

CPAST Observation Form (C. Ciotto & H. Abadiano, *Assessment Committee*)

- This past Tuesday, another CAEP workshop was held and focused on the CPAST observation rubric for the 6 formal observations taking place during student teaching.
- [Sample 1:](#) with numbers
- [Sample 2:](#) without numbers
- [Student Teaching Observation Overview](#)
- Items to review and report back during the March CTEN meeting
 - Observation rubric with or without numbers (see samples like above)

- Addendums
 - Non-negotiable items
- Open discussion

Follow up on prompt document to facilitate programmatic discussion of Bridge documents and CAEP Standard 2 suggested goals to meet AFI's (L. Scharfenberger, *Partnership Committee*)

- In the fall the partnership subcommittee shared out prompts that departments, program coordinators, and faculty could think about regarding the AFI for CAEP.
- [Prompts](#)

Subcommittee Reports:

- Research Reassigned Time (RRT)
- Partnership (L. Scharfenberger & M. Gunter)
- Assessment Subcommittee (C. Ciotto & H. Abadiano)
- Strategic Planning, Policy & Procedures

CTEN Areas of Focus for 2025-2026:

- Engage in CAEP Accreditation Work
- Provide input about the SOE strategic plan
- Ensure programs are current with legislative changes to teacher certification
- Engage with District Partners to foster continued coloration
- Position Central as leader in Connecticut for teacher preparation

Open Agenda

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.