

Teacher Education Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Zoom & EDHS 120

Members Present: Dr. Marty Hatton, Dr. Bob Fuller, Dr. Kelly Ballard, Ms. Georgia Graham, Ms. Penny Mansell, Ms. Brittany Hunnicutt, Ms. Anstacia Doughty

Members Present via Zoom: Dr. Bonnie Oppenheimer, Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg, Ms. Halley Winters, Dr. Christy Adams, Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. Stephani DuGuid, Mr. David Carter, Dr. Kristi DiClemente

1.0 Forum: Guest Speaker

There were no guest speakers.

2.0 Call to Order

Dr. Marty Hatton, Chair of the Teacher Education Council, called the meeting to order.

3.0 Approval of September 20, 2023 Minutes

Dr. Christy Adams approved the minutes from the September 20, 2023 meeting and Dr. Bonnie Oppenheimer seconded. The minutes were approved as printed.

4.0 Introduction of Ms. Georgia Graham

Ms. Georgia Graham has been hired as the Director of the CPDC and Early Childhood Professor. She has experience in past centers with NAEYC accreditation and will be working to help the Early Childhood track obtain a licensure track.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Events

5.1.1 Job Fair and Outstanding Student Recognition will be April 17th at 1:00 p.m. in EDHS 120 and will follow the same format as the Fall event.

5.1.2 Homecoming Alumni Event

The Education Department will host an alumni gathering on Friday, April 5, from 3-4 p.m. in EDHS 120 to address current program needs and launch an alumni mentorship network for early-career students. The Marketing, Recruitment, and Retention Committee has identified the need to enhance communication and cultivate relationships with our alumni community. This event will kickstart relationship-building efforts while laying the groundwork for future initiatives. Dr. Hatton extends an invitation to K12/Secondary Faculty interested in participating.

5.2 Special Education Endorsement

MDE has approved the application for Undergraduate Endorsement and Graduate Endorsements in Special Education. It still needs to be approved by the board in late April. The School of Education can currently offer an endorsement in Gifted Studies at the Graduate level. Obtaining the ability to grant a Special Education Endorsement will allow the program the opportunity to build a degree plan on Double Exceptionalities. Masters of Education students could receive a 12-hour endorsement in Special Education and 12-hours in Gifted with 2 research-based electives. Undergraduate students can take two additional courses to obtain their Special Education endorsement.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Zero Credit Orientation Courses

The Department of Education is proposing zero credit orientation courses that students will enroll in during their time in Education courses. The intention is to pilot this with Elementary Education initially, and then possible implementation into Secondary/K12. Several secondary faculty mentioned that they would like for their students to be included, and Dr. Hatton clarified that although it is being piloted for Elementary Education, Secondary/K12 would be able to have access as well, but it would not yet be a program requirement.

Navigating the Education program can be challenging, despite faculty efforts to address students' inquiries in classes. The aim is to create a platform for students to gather and discuss their concerns, anticipate challenges, and understand the expectations for each semester of Teacher Education. By utilizing zero-credit classes there will be no impact on GPA or credit hours (or financial obligations) for students. Dr. Hatton reminded everyone that student support is retention and providing this extra layer of support will benefit students and help with retention.

6.2 Observation Hours

The Department of Education is proposing 10 hours of observation for ED 390 and ED 200. ED 200 is the first Education class a student takes and it would be beneficial for students to have some observation hours before they formally start the rest of the education courses. ED 390 has a required case study and needs observation hours in order to complete the case study. Neither of these courses will need a clinical placement, they can be done at the location choice of the student (within parameters). Dr. DiClemente questioned if this could be an out of state observation, given several students live in Alabama. It was agreed that would not be a problem.

In the discussion about observation hours, Dr. Hatton asked the faculty to consider how can there can be more partnerships with MSMS? They do a phenomenal job and use best practices and it can be encouraged as an observational placement site for our students, particularly the secondary education students.

6.3 Elementary Education: One Concentration

Currently, the Elementary Education (EE) curriculum mandates that students specialize in two areas (Math, Science, English, or History). Given the emphasis on literacy within the program, MDE has removed the requirement of two concentrations to one.

It is crucial to differentiate between Concentration and Endorsement. Concentration is a part of the program but is not explicitly listed on the teaching license. An Endorsement certifies teachers to instruct beyond the standard curriculum and is listed on their license. By removing the second concentration, it could potentially free a student's schedule in a way where they could obtain an additional endorsement on their license which helps the student in both marketability and training.

6.4 Change GPA to 2.5 with ACT or Praxis Score

The current requirements for getting into Teacher Education are:

-A 3.0 GPA OR

-A 2.75 GPA and a passing score on the Praxis or ACT.

MDE recently communicated that with a passing ACT or Praxis Core score, the GPA could be lowered. Dr. Ballard did some research of what other colleges were doing and the department of education faculty recommended that the GPA be dropped to a 2.5 (however, a student would still need to pass the Praxis Core or the ACT at that GPA). This change would not occur until the new academic year.

Dr. Hatton entertained a motion to accept all four items as presented. Mr. David Carter gave a motion, and Stephanie DuGuid seconded. All four items were approved as presented.

7.0 Licensure Update

Dr. Ballard gave a brief update and said all placements were going well this semester. She reminded everyone that Teacher Education Applications and Internship Applications were due mid-April.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 2:57.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mrs. Brittany Hunnicutt.