

The College of New Jersey  
School of Education  
TEPC Meeting  
October 7, 2015

The Teacher Education Program Council meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in Education 103. Those in attendance were: Victoria Allen-Edwards, Virginia Brown, Dr. Laura Bruno, Dr. Maureen Connolly, Asst. Dean Delsia Fleming, Dr. Brian Girard, Dr. Blythe Hinitz, Dr. Lisa LaJevic, Dr. Cathy Liebars, Certification Officer Kerri Long, Dr. Solange Lopes-Murphy, Dr. Mike Marino, Dr. Steve O'Brien, Rebecca Reinhard, Dr. Colleen Sears, and Dr. Mathew Wund. The Dean of the SOE, Dr. Jeff Passe, presided over the meeting.

1. Staff Changes (Continued)

The STEP office has gone through reorganization and Kerri Long who used to be the Certification officer is the new Director of the STEP office and Certification will be one of her duties; Virginia Brown and Victoria Allen-Edwards will continue their roles under the leadership of Ms. Long. Since Certification and STEP work so closely together we have merged the departments. Jennifer Pirone will continue her responsibilities and the plan is to hire an assistant to help Kerri Long as she will have a much broader list of responsibilities taking on the Director position.

2. DOE Developments

NJACTE has prepared a response to the proposals. Sharon Sherman, Dean at Rider, and Claudine Keenan, Dean of Stockton were able to negotiate with DOE and come to a compromise that everyone can sign off on that will pose no threat to any of our programs -- assuming that everything goes through as expected.

3. NCTQ

NCTQ, the National Council for Teacher Quality; is a self-appointed organization that has declared itself the independent group on what is good and bad about teacher education. They put out a report every year but have trouble obtaining data as they are not an accreditation body; no one is required to cooperate or provide the data they request. Teacher education programs across the country do not cooperate with NCTQ. NCTQ tries to obtain syllabi from teacher education programs to analyze their programs and say that they are not doing enough of one thing or that they should be doing more of another without knowing what is actually going on in the classrooms, since they base it solely on syllabi.

They even go as far as to have someone contact professors pretending to be a prospective student asking for a copy of their course syllabus to help them decide if they want to enroll in their class. When professors do not respond to their request they continue to

write over and over again, when they still do not get a response they then contact higher administration to complain and say that they are a prospective new student and they have not gotten a response to their request. Please don't worry about this as our Administration is aware as well our General Counsel's office. Tom Mahoney has a plan on how this should be handled. Just so you know to keep any eye out for these emails. The name they have been using is Melissa Dillon; the email that is used is Melissa.dillon21@gmail.com.

4. TEPC Task Force

Dean Passe is requesting nominations for representatives to be a part of a TEPC task force. The task force will attend two meetings to provide feedback on if TEPC is running as efficiently as possible.

- Structure may not be the best way to receive communication and transmit communication to various programs
- We should re-evaluate how and when meetings are held and who should be involved in the meetings

5. PDSN

Quarterly meetings are held with representatives from various school districts. September was a great meeting;

- Things that are supposed to be happening are not and have not for a few years. There should be an eight member Governing Committee that should set the agenda and be jointly constructed so PDSN is a truly inclusive collaboration. Everyone is now on board and Ms. Long will be in touch to set up the November meeting. The hope is that this type of joint work will allow for more cooperation so that school districts will see themselves as part of our team.
- TEPC has a concern that we are not getting enough cooperating districts. Ms. Long stated that her parameters are defined by TCNJ utilizing a 35 mile radius and she would like to push it out another ten miles to help our students with placements as things become more competitive.
- There is a concern that school districts are denying placements because they have entered into an exclusive contract with another higher education facility. TCNJ is going to do everything it can to continue to form good working relationships with everyone as well.

6. NCATE – Next Steps

Dean Passe advised that Collette Gosselin will be unable to continue as NCATE Coordinator. The dean is in the process of trying to hire a new accreditation coordinator; the hope is to find someone who has a strong background in assessments and who can begin in January. Our NCATE review will officially be changing over to CAEP which

will bring new rules and regulations to follow. There are professional development funds available if anyone is interested in learning more about CEAP.

- We need to remind professors to enter data into LiveText as reports will continue to be due.
- In the meantime anyone who has questions or concerns about accreditation should contact Dean Passe directly.

#### 7. STEP Office

Ms. Long advised that spring projections are showing that we are sharing the same pool of cooperation teachers and districts for juniors and field placements which may cause an issue for the flexibility of one-on-one student teacher relationships in the spring semester. Going forward sophomores and juniors will be paired in the hopes of alleviating these challenges. Ms. Long is asking for TEPC support with these changes.

- Students who are Elementary Ed/Special Education arrangements need to be made with two teachers.
  - Some districts limit how often their teachers can host a student teacher, which limits the number of cooperating teachers they have to utilize.
- Ms. Edwards stated that she had concern that there would be pushback as some districts only want one student teacher, however, other schools have signed up for the whole year and they don't have the teachers to accommodate that if they don't pair up their students. So schools that are expected to have a problem with this change are being forced to conform.
- Certain environments have a lot of individual requests, and in some cases the STEP office will have a very hard time to accommodate that request. Six schools working in our area have switched over to full year placement which will take away from our options if we are not flexible.
- Ms. Edwards stated that they are not going to place students in junior practicum in block schedule schools so they will be freed up for student teachers.
- Ms. Brown suggests being more flexible so it's not too difficult to find a diverse setting and to help create a balance between sophomores/junior practicum and student teaching.
- Ms. Edwards believes that being flexible and developing relationships outside of what we normally do is very important.
- Dean Passe asked Ms. Reinhard for her thoughts on the benefits of working in pairs during the sophomore/junior practicum. Ms. Reinhard confirmed that she believes it's a good idea because it can be scary going out on your own for the first time so having a peer with you can be comforting in a new situation; you can travel together and look to each other for support and feedback.

- A concern Dr. Connolly has is that a student who may not be as ready as others for student teaching may be missed if they are leaning on each other too much as a pair. We need to be more engaged and consistent so this is not missed.

- Ms. Edwards mentioned that Rider University sends a professor in to do trainings and workshops with cooperating teachers in a cluster and they are very receptive to this training. This helps teachers to have a better understanding of what is expected of them.
- Dr. Lajevic suggested inviting supervisors to a PDSN meeting to discuss taking our students since the districts are part of the network and they have a representative there -- having one special meeting for each group (art, sciences, etc.). Dean Passe asked Lisa to send a draft of a plan to see if we can make it happen.
- Dr. Connolly expressed concern about losing good teachers to the idea that they have to take a pair because their schedule doesn't allow or doesn't want to give up two of their classes. Ms. Edwards is unsure that this will be a problem; Ms. Long explained that what they are exploring is setting a policy as opposed to a rule so it will allow for flexibility when the need arises.

8. Other

Dr. Girard shared that the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has created a video library to use as an online teaching resource called ATLAS and they are offering a free trial for the month of October and after that it will become a subscription. He is encouraging others to view some of the videos to see if it is a good resource before requesting a subscription. Upon receipt, Dean Passe will send the link out to all faculty members.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26pm. The next TEPC will be held on November 4th at 1:30 pm in EDU 103.