

The College of New Jersey
School of Education
TEPC Meeting
November 4, 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, Dr. Laura Bruno, Dr. Maureen Connolly, Asst. Dean Delsia Fleming, Dr. Brian Girard, Dr. Blythe Hinitz, Dr. Lisa LaJevic, Dr. Cathy Liebars, Dr. Nathan Magee, STEP Director Kerri Long, Dr. Emily Meixner, Dr. Mike Marino, Dr. Steve O'Brien, Rebecca Reinhard, and Dr. Mathew Wund. The Dean of the SOE, Dr. Jeff Passe, presided over the meeting.

1. NCATE 2015 BOE Findings

Dr. Gosselin advised that the School of Education received a very positive report from the NCATE visit. This visit was an NCATE legacy visit; however, the next visit will be a CAEP visit. Dean Passe plans on attending the March CEAP meeting in order to get a better idea of what their expectations will be for the next accreditation visit. Dr. Gosselin stated that she is only addressing the findings that are listed as Areas for Improvement (AFI) in the report.

- Standard 1 (Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions)
 - Candidates in both Initial (ITP) and Advanced (ADV) programs are not familiar with the unit's professional dispositions.
 - NCATE attempted to get the candidates to talk about the dispositions in a few different ways but they were unable. They could talk about the expectations in terms of the dispositions but couldn't talk about them as dispositions.
- Standard 2 (Assessment System and Unit Evaluation)
 - The unit does not jointly design and analyze program assessments and data with its professional community. We have not designed our assessments with our cooperating teachers and school partners. We have not shared our data with them or gotten feedback from them.
 - Dean Passe reminded TEPC that the PDSN is in the process of reorganizing so that there will be regular planning sessions in preparation for those meetings and reviewing data will be a large part of those meetings. School partners should be working in collaboration with us rather than with an existing divide.
- Standard 4 (Diversity)
 - Our candidates have limited opportunities to interact with candidates with different racial and ethnical backgrounds, this applies to both our initial and advanced programs

- The Unit does not ensure that candidates in all programs interact with P-12 students from diverse groups, specifically our advanced programs.
 - Dean Passe acknowledged that remedying this area for improvement would be a little more difficult as these are students who are already out in the field and have little opportunity to go outside of their classrooms. (unlike our initial teacher prep students who have opportunities to experience all types of students.) An example of an option is to create assignments for them that would require them to go out into the community.
- Absence of data. The unit does not provide evidence for tracking candidates' placements to ensure diverse field and clinical experiences.
 - Dr. Gosselin advised that Ms. Long and the STEP office will be reviewing our ability to collect data on how our students are interacting with P-12. Ms. Long advised that the STEP office actually has quite a bit of required data but when the reports were originally constructed they did not contain modules to report on the information that was collected. At this time, we do not have the resources to change the reports; Asst. Dean Fleming will work with IT to find a way to extract the collected data. Dr. Gosselin suggested finding a way to collect the data through LiveText so we can utilize our existing software systems.
- Standard 5 (Faculty Qualifications)
 - This was our "target" standard, for which we had to select a standard as a target we were working toward. They found us to be somewhere between emerging and developing but believe we are on target.

2. NJDOE

Ms. Long advised that the NJDOE regulations are being voted on today. New regulations:

- Expand the preschool through grade 3 program to encompass 24 hours.
 - This probably won't impact our traditional program as we have more than 24 hours but it may require us to expand our alternate route from 13 hrs. to 24 hrs.
- Field experience component will consist of 175 hours in pre-clinical format in addition to student teaching.
 - We will need to look at what needs to be done to make our programs comply.
- 50 hour of pre-clinical that should precede all of the above.

It is expected that the new regulations will pass today; information will be provided after Ms. Long receives the formal notification. NJACTE is lobbying today to see what may be softened.

3. Proposal to Raise the Student Teaching Minimum Grade

Currently undergraduates are permitted to have a C+ and graduate students must have no lower than a B-. However, a lower grade may cause problems obtaining employment and doesn't show proficiency. Ms. Long recommends that the student handbook be revised to show that a B minus in student teaching would be the lowest grade that a student can receive in order to be recommended to the state for certification upon graduation. (handout provided). It was determined that this issue will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

4. Process for Students Making Insufficient Progress in Student Teaching

- Students should be receiving multiple written and verbal advisories, there must be a mix of the two and some of them must be written (exhibiting any degree of “terrible” in the field)
- Send an email to Virginia Brown, Assist. Director Student Teaching in the STEP office, saying that it is unlikely this student will be progressing to the point of completing student teaching successfully.
- STEP Office will respond with an Intervention Form
- The Coordinator of Student Teaching for the department must complete the Intervention form and return it to Virginia Brown, STEP Office. **(This step must be completed prior to moving forward to ensure the STEP office documentation from the department on record)**
 - Student requests a leave -- the status must be either a WP or WF, cannot be left as an IP
 - Student can elect to repeat Student Teaching they will have to pay for it
- In the case that a student receives a grade lower than the minimum allowable grade for successful completion of the student teaching experience as outlined in the Student Teaching Handbook the Department Chairperson must notify the Dean's office, STEP office, and Records and Registration that the student has not successfully met TCNJ program requirements and is not eligible for recommendation for certification
- Records and Registration annotates the transcript “without certification”

***The only time students can apply to the NJDOE on their own is when they have successfully completed student teaching and have a GPA between 2.75 and 3.0 and a passing Praxis II score of 10% above the minimum passing score in their subject area. It was decided by TEPC that TCNJ would not recommend students under these circumstances though NJ Administrative Code allows only this option. ***

- The Certification Officer will notify the student via registered letter in triplicate to be signed by both the Dean and the student, with a return receipt requested, so

that an official record of the “ineligibility for certification status” can be recorded and acknowledge.

Motion was made to approve Policy for Student Teachers making Insufficient Progress and was passed.

5. Other

- The next TEPC task force meeting will be held on November 18th.
- At the next TEPC meeting be prepared to discuss the motion to raise the minimum student teaching grade from a C+ to a B- for graduate and undergraduate students.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34pm. The next TEPC will be held on December 2nd at 1:30 pm in EDU 103.