

The College of New Jersey
School of Education
TEPC Meeting – Large Group/Coordinators
September 7, 2016

The Teacher Education Program Council meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in Education 103. Those in attendance were: Dr. Helene Anthony (for Dr. Nadya Pancsofar), Brianna Antoniello (SGA), Dr. Lynn Booth, Dr. Laura Bruno, Dr. Stuart Carroll, Dr. Tabitha Dell'Angelo, Dr. Jody Eberly, Assistant Dean Delsia Fleming, Dr. Joe Goebel, Dr. Colette Gosselin, Dr. Matthew Hall, Professor Eileen Heddy, Dr. Arti Joshi, Dr. Lisa LaJevic, Dr. Cathy Liebars, Certification Office Kerri Long, Dr. Solange Lopes Murphy, Dr. Mike Marino, Dr. Emily Meixner, Dr. Shri Rao, Dr. Colleen Sears, Dr. Barbara Strassman, Christina Vassalo (SGA), Dr. Yiqiang Wu, and Dr. Matthew Wund. The Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Jeff Passe, presided over the meeting.

1. Welcome

Dean Passe welcomed the group back for the Fall 2016 semester and provided a review of the purpose and structure of TEPC. He stated that the council has evolved into a two-group structure, wherein the Large Group (Coordinators and Leaders) is convened for discussion, sharing of ideas, providing general updates which affect teacher education programs, and proposing policy; while the Steering Committee is assembled for making motions and decisions regarding implementing policy, finalizing language, and making program recommendations.

2. Certification: Basic Skills Update

Certification Officer Long distributed a handout which provides an overview of the new basic skills testing scores. A new set of qualifying SAT scores has been added to the previous sets; this new set of scores has been adopted due to College Board's revision of the SAT structure. Qualifying SAT scores represent the top one-third of test scores for a given period. Qualifying ACT and GRE scores have not changed. Ms. Long reminded everyone that the formal entry-point for most programs completed between the sophomore and junior years, and affects rising sophomores; five-year programs typically complete this requirement in the fourth year. Departments are responsible for verifying that students meeting these requirements.

Ms. Long reported that some departments had students who waited until just before the requirement deadline to complete the Praxis Core and failed one or more sections. She noted that early advisement of all students is key to preventing this scenario from playing out repeatedly for many others. To characterize the total number of students who do not meet this requirement, Dean Passe stated that approximately 25% of last year's incoming

class did not meet this requirement upon entry and the number has gone up to about 33% for the Class of 2020. He noted that these numbers may not be indicative of the quality of our incoming students, but could be representative of many other factors, including test anxiety and curriculum taught in high schools misaligning with the test.

Furthermore, advising students to take the test earlier in their program may also increase a student's likelihood of passing a section they may otherwise fail due to the deterioration of their high school knowledge base and a lack of exposure (e.g., English students are unlikely to take courses in Mathematics and may fail as a result). Ms. Long stated that she compiled some statistics of students who failed one or more sections on the Praxis Core in the early part of 2016 and found that 2% failed the reading section, 11% failed writing section, and 33% failed the math section, which clearly indicates an area of weakness.

Dean Passe informed the group that the School of Education intends to offer special courses, tutoring, and additional support to students, but early identification and intervention are essential to putting students on the correct path.

The floor was opened to the group for questions.

Dr. Dell'Angelo requested that these scores be made more readily visible on the Certification Office website, as faculty and students may struggle to easily find this information. Ms. Long stated that she would work toward a solution to increase ease of access.

In response to a question from Dr. Sears, Ms. Long reported that we are now able to accept SAT "superscores" (composite scores from across multiple instances of testing) to satisfy the basic skills testing requirement. Additionally, Ms. Long stated that NJ DOE has permitted students to retake the SAT or ACT to meet score requisites. This is particularly beneficial, as these tests are less expensive than the Praxis Core and, going forward, students will already be familiar with the tests' formats (although the current SAT will not be the same as the SAT students took prior to 2016). However, the limit to this permission is that students must qualify in all sections on one type of exam (e.g., must qualify on all sections of the SAT, and cannot meet SAT math and ACT reading/writing and be considered qualified). (Post-meeting note: Retaking of SATs is limited to high school students.)

Currently, the College is responsible (through advisors in each department) for signing off to validate that the student has met the testing requisite, although students may be expected to submit these scores directly to NJ DOE in the future. In the case of Secondary Education majors, content area advisors review and record submitted scores to

verify that a student has met the standard.

Dean Passe stated that, if there are compelling reasons to make an exception to this requirement, he will be the arbiter of all special circumstances and arrangements. This is generally discouraged because this is a state regulation and the College has little leverage to modify this regulation, but particular extenuating circumstances do exist.

3. NCATE Reaccreditation Mini-Celebration

President Gitenstein joined the group and congratulated everyone on their tireless, hard work on ensuring the future of TCNJ's teacher preparation programs and continuing to provide the kinds of programs which make the College exemplary. Dean Passe reported that we have officially passed reaccreditation with all conditions met and thanked Dr. Gosselin (previously CAEP coordinator) and the report writers for all of their efforts.

4. Certification: Basic Skills Update (continued)

The floor was reopened for questions.

The question was raised as to what should be done if there are existing juniors in junior year experiences (outside of the School of Education) who have taken the Praxis Core, but have only passed two sections. Dean Passe stated that those outside of the School of Education should consult with him and Ms. Long and be in contact with the dean of their school for a solution. The answer to the question of whether the student should remain in the junior year experience is at the discretion of the program's dean. Ms. Long closed the response by stating that, all in all, the institution is at risk of having problems with NJ DOE if students in junior year experiences are found to not meet requirements.

Dean Passe stated that he had met with Admissions representatives, who have been made aware of these requirements and regulations. Assistant Dean Fleming added that holds will be placed on incoming graduate students who do not currently meet the testing requisite and that she has started talks with Records & Registration to add the requirement to the Academic Requirement Report of all education students.

5. Certification: Program Submission to State for Approval

Ms. Long announced that an NJ DOE regulation which has been largely ignored for the past decade has been reactivated. This portion of the Administrative Code states that one year after reaccreditation, all programs must be resubmitted to the state for re-approval. In particular, the state is requiring the submission of all initial certification programs due to need to meet new guidelines for expanded student teaching and pre-service requirements. Ms. Long noted that this includes programs which were recently approved.

Deadlines for submission to the state are November 1st, 2016 (program approval period

through April 2017) and April 1st, 2017 (program approval period through August 31st, 2017). If programs are not submitted in one of these two windows, programs run the risk of being barred from accepting new students into our programs because they have expired. Dean Passe asked that drafts of all submissions be completed early, so there is time for appropriate review by himself (or the program's dean), the STEP Office, and other interested parties and councils. Ms. Long requested that all materials be submitted to Jennifer Pirone (Certification) no later than October 14th.

Ms. Long stated that she will be distributing common proposal templates for undergraduate and graduate programs, which contain some blanket information. Dr. Strassman has been working on a proposal template for five-year programs. Ms. Long noted that most of the information requested in this proposal form is available through previously completed SPA reports and the catalog.

Fielding a question about Secondary Education, Ms. Long stated that programs which result in a CEAS and the same type of certification can be submitted as one proposal, provided the programs do not take radically different education courses.

(Post-meeting note: The time-tables announced in this section are no longer in effect. Only alternative certification revisions are due by November 1, 2016.)

6. Council Meeting Time

Dean Passe stated that several councils meet in the same time block as TEPC on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, which causes a conflict for some of the group's members (himself included). He asked if there might be another Wednesday time block this council could be held. Generally, the group members could not find an alternative, so TEPC will continue as regularly scheduled.

7. edTPA Update

Dr. Booth provided an update to the group on the status of edTPA implementation, which will take effect in September 2017. She related that students have been selected for the edTPA pilot this semester, and requested that coordinators forward the names of these students to her as soon as possible. Dr. Booth and Ms. Long will be meeting with the Mercer County superintendents on September 8th to discuss how this will affect the pilot students' placements and in-classroom assessment, which includes videotaping. A template of the videotaping permission slip will be distributed to the superintendents. Of the 46 vouchers provided to the SOE, 23 will be used this semester; the rest will be used in the spring semester before they expire.

The intended date for the Local Evaluation/edTPA training is November 30th. More

information will be distributed as details are confirmed. Dr. Booth stated that another training session is being offered at Montclair on September 23rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm. The next Large Group/Coordinators TEPC will be held on Wednesday, October 5th at 1:30pm in EDU 103. The next Steering Committee meeting, September 21st, has been cancelled.