

Youngstown State University
Beeghly College of Education
McKay Auditorium
October 19, 2017, 3:30 p.m.

Professional Education Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Leah Brown, Donna Czeck, Kim Davis, Melanie DeBord, Mary Lou DiPillo, Timothy Filipovich, Stacy Graber, Betty Greene, Charles Howell, Denise Hunt, Michael Kerensky, Therese Kightlinger, Marcia Matanin, Pam McCurdy, Jan Nelson, Anita O'Mellan, Kristen Osiniak, Martha Pallante, Jake Protivnak, Gregg Sturru, Gary Walker, and Amy Williams. Guest: Kristen Italiano

Call to Order

Dr. Protivnak welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves as there are several new members on the Council.

Minutes

Mr. Kerensky motioned to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting, as presented, and Betty Greene seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Report on Recommendations of Site Visit Team

Dr. DiPillo summarized the recommendations of the site visit team. Standard 1 (Content and Pedagogical Knowledge) is an area for improvement regarding the development of our rubrics. CAEP came out with criteria for rubrics, and all of our rubrics were not at that level. In response, part of our selected improvement plan includes implementing proper rubric language and testing rubrics for reliability and validity. Standard 2 (Clinical Partnerships and Practice): nothing was found inconsistent. Standard 3 (Candidate Quality, Recruitment, and Selectivity): Our recruitment plan is based on local needs, and the high need areas are mathematics and special education. The site visit team found an inconsistency in the recruitment of diverse candidates, which is our second area for improvement. In response, the recruitment committee updated our recruitment plan, developed a database of potential students, and are preparing to track follow-up contacts. Standard 4 (Program Impact): this includes classroom observations, surveys and data collection. No areas of inconsistency were noted. Standard 5 (Provider Quality Assurance and Continued Improvement): the BCOE quality assurance system is in place, and no inconsistencies were found.

On Saturday, October 21, a conference call with the site visit team will be held. It will be a summary of their review and an opportunity to ask questions will follow. The accreditation council's decision will then go to a Joint Review Council, and notification will go to President Tressel. We are anticipating a positive letter in the near future.

Reorganization

Dr. Protivnak announced that the department of Educational Foundations, Research, Technology & Leadership was discontinued at the end of the fiscal year. Graduate programs in EFRTL went to the Department of Counseling, School Psychology and Educational Leadership (CSPEL), and undergraduate courses went to Teacher Education. The reorganization became effective due to the resignation of the part-time administrative assistant in EFRTL and the streamlining of programs. It logically made sense to move special education to Teacher Education. The Center for Human Services Development (after-school programs) is now under the direction of CSPEL, and Angela Cameron, their director, is available to assist with those who are applying for grants.

College Enrollment

The handout on college enrollment data by major was reviewed by Dr. Howell. The headcount enrollment for each program was compared from Fall 2012 to Fall 2017 along with respective gains and losses. In summary, enrollment overall is decreasing. From Fall 2016 to Fall 2017, there is a slight increase in enrollment in several special education programs and mathematics. However, there is a significant drop in special education mild moderate disabilities, in the Content Area masters, and in our graduate reading program.

Recruitment Initiatives

Due to the demand for teachers who have a background in special education, mathematics and science, there is a need to increase enrollment efforts. Over the past several months, special education faculty in the college went down from 9 to 1. This will become a real problem in the future. It is very difficult to recruit diverse teacher candidates, but there is a retention initiative in place. We rely on our school partners to get the word out, and Dr. Howell shared that we are very interested in hearing about suggestions to recruit prospective teachers. In addition to reaching out to area school counselors, the promotion of Educators Rising and other future educator groups in the high schools has begun. Recruitment also takes place on campus on Crash Days and when Open Houses are held.

Following discussion, the following suggestions to support recruitment initiatives were made by some of the Council members:

1. Activate Pete's Pride, communicate with YSU alums who are teachers in the area schools; contact the most-admired/appreciated teachers to foster an interest in teaching.
2. College Credit Plus programs focused on FOUN 1501 in Canfield and Campbell.
3. Attend superintendents and principals meetings.
4. Put up posters at Crash Day and in the area high schools (math and science classrooms) promoting teaching careers as well as student loan forgiveness programs.
5. Contact Mandy Scrocco, who coordinates a program with students who are mentored by a teacher and do tutoring once a month.
6. Contact Rebecca Shraker, Coordinator, Austintown Middle School, regarding eighth grade students who read to elementary school classes.
7. In Boardman, Mr. Orr can identify those students who participate in tutoring other students after school. Those students accumulate up to 150 hours of volunteer time.

8. Denise Hunt noted that there is an Ashtabula Growth Mentorship program where some students shadow teachers. Fact sheets for math students could be provided to those who participate in that program.

Assessment Data

Students seeking upper division admission are facing retention challenges and must demonstrate competency in math, writing and reading. Dr. Howell reviewed the handout, FOUN 1501 Persistence Analysis. He added that a higher high school GPA raises the probability of admission to upper division. Comparisons were reviewed for gender, race, first generation status, high school GPA, and ACT scores. In summary, academic performance plays a greater role than race or first generation status.

Students who are not admitted to upper division are going to social work, psychology, and general studies. Of the students who take FOUN 1501 and do not continue in education, a higher proportion of those not enrolled in SPED 2630 declare a different major, compared to those who do enroll. It appears that the first group are more likely to have decided a teaching career is not the best fit for them; the second group are more likely not to persist because of difficulty meeting standards for upper division.

Engagement Opportunities

Dr. Howell announced that the college is becoming more active in social media and asked those present to check out the college on Twitter (2YSUBCOE) and Instagram (@ysubcoe). In addition, a professional development session is scheduled on Saturday, October 21 from 8:00 a.m. to noon on “Kids in Crisis: School-Based Supports to Foster Resilience.”

Teacher Candidate Interviewing Skills

In the interest of time, this agenda item was tabled. Dr. Matanin asked the Council members, “What is the interview question that gives you the most insight on teacher candidates?” She stated that a roundtable for all teacher candidates is scheduled on November 13 that will include mock interviews. An email will query the Council members for their responses.

Holiday Party

Dr. Howell talked about the possibility of holding a holiday party to enhance our partnerships with the area schools. He will send out an email to inquire about possible dates.

Next Meeting Dates

Tuesday, December 5, Thursday, February 22, and Thursday, April 19 are the meeting dates that are scheduled for the remainder of the year. All of the meetings will all be held from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in McKay Auditorium.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Bidwell