

MINUTES

Teacher Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

In Attendance: Stephen Simard, Demetra Saldaris, Mike Parr, Ron Phillips, Michelle Passmore, Chris Chabot, Rick Belisle, Carole Richardson, Barbara Olmsted, Astrid Steele, Michelann Parr, Carla Webster

Regrets: Geof Botting, Paula Mann, Jeff Scott

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Richardson welcomed the Committee to the first meeting of 2014-15. A roundtable introduction ensued.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Carole Richardson: That the Agenda be approved with no formal motion.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Carole Richardson: That the Minutes of October 17, 2012 be approved.

Moved by: Astrid Steele Seconded by: Michelle Passmore

CARRIED

4. Dean's Report – Dr. Carole Richardson

The Dean indicated that Faculty and Administration have worked diligently and collaboratively together over the past year or more to structure the two-year Bachelor of Education degree program beginning in September 2015. The Dean provided a brief outline of how the program will look and listed the courses that will be offered. The program will be two years in length, with four semesters in total, and will include slightly above the required number of weeks of placement. PJ, JI and IS divisions will continue to be offered. There will be a number of cross-divisional courses, as well as division specific course. Drama and dance will be incorporated into other subjects. Teacher Candidates will have the opportunity to

choose a number of elective courses offered in year two of the program (PJ 2, JI 2, IS 3-4). All courses have been approved.

The Dean stated that the joint Nipissing/Laurier concurrent BEd program is being discontinued. There will be no further intakes. Teacher Candidates in the program will continue to be serviced at the Brantford campus and will flow through until they have completed the program.

The Dean stated that Nipissing's concurrent BEd program has not been re-constituted in the same format. There will be no further intakes. Teacher Candidates in the program continue to be serviced at the North Bay campus and will flow through until they have completed the program.

The Dean outlined the format of the new concurrent program. The new structure has been a boon to Nipissing, as our first year numbers are up.

5. Associate Dean's Report – Dr. Barbara Olmsted

The Associate Dean provided an overview of Professional Week, which was held from September 29-October 3, 2014. It was a pleasure to have the Ministry of Education participate and offer a variety of workshops this year. A full range of other workshops were offered as well. The week was very valuable for Teacher Candidates and feedback was positive. Next year, only year 5 concurrent candidates will participate in Professional Week. In the new program, Professional Week will be scheduled for the graduating class.

The Associate Dean announced that the Schulich School of Education, in partnership with the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic D.S.B. and Near North D.S.B., applied for the Enhancing Teacher Development Fund. \$15,000 has been secured and will be used toward an Associate Teacher Partnership Project with the local school boards. Plans are currently being made to host a full day of workshops and networking opportunities for local Associate Teachers on April 23, 2015.

6. TELC Report – Chris Chabot

Chris reported that TELC met for the first time on September 22, 2014. The second meeting was postponed in January due to weather and other circumstances. Another meeting will be scheduled in February.

Lindy Amato presented for OTF during Professional Week on September 30, 2014. Feedback on affiliate presentations during Professional Week was mostly positive. Teacher Candidates want dynamic presenters.

On September 20, the Chairs of the local TELCs met at the OTF office in Toronto and discussed several issues, including:

- Concerns over Regulation #274, specifically the letter from Fiona Blaikie, Chair of OADE, to Liz Sandals. Carole said that she was surprised and dismayed at the interpretation of the letter and

indicated that there was never any intent to indicate in any way that students with a one-year BEd would be de-valued. She stated that another letter has been sent out to address this issue.

- Teacher Education Discussion Table established to work on issues pertaining to the restructuring to the pre-service education program. How will the impact be measured? How will Associate Teachers be recruited/selected/supported/recognized? What will happen to tech studies and other low enrolment, but high demand programs?

Two more meetings and a videoconference have been scheduled for this year.

Moving forward, TELC will continue to look for ways to engage Teacher Candidates and provide more awareness to potential Associate Teachers. What seminars can we provide? Seminars are free of charge, other than the deposit for minimum attendance. TELC cannot cover the deposit, as per OTF guidelines.

Chris provided a brief summary of a pinning ceremony and indicated that TELC would consider contributing toward the cost of the pins for the Schulich School of Education. Other institutions have performed these ceremonies and the feedback has been very positive. Discussion ensued.

7. Ministry of Education Report – Demetra Saldaris (via teleconference)

Demetra indicated that the letter from OADE that Chris mentioned in his report was also copied to the Ministry of Education and stated that it was not interpreted by the Ministry to mean that teachers with a one-year BEd would be de-valued.

The Ministry is working hard on its new vision with stakeholders and other branches. There are four key elements – equity, excellence, enhancing well-being and supporting public confidence. Additional attention is being brought to mathematics and the Ministry wants to encourage its stakeholders to also bring awareness to mathematics. Carole pointed out that in the new program, candidates in each division will be required to take a 3-credit math course, in addition to any teaching subjects they may be required to take.

The Ministry recognizes that some of its programs need to change, for example, Building Futures will be restructured. An internal review will be conducted.

The Ministry is looking at ways to support Associate Teachers and will be interested to know what we learn from our Associate Teacher Partnership Project. It's important to ensure that Associate Teachers are willing to support Teacher Candidates in both years of the restructured BEd program.

The Ministry is very concerned about tech education across the province. There are also concerns about French language candidates and Aboriginal education candidates. The Minister is focused on these concerns. Carole indicated that keeping the Aboriginal candidate numbers out of the cap was very helpful to Nipissing University.

Stephen indicated that Nipissing's partnership with the local school boards is very much appreciated. He reported that there will be a big release of curriculum documents this year. The secondary FSL document

has been released. The next one to be released is Canadian and World Studies. Nipissing University should receive an invitation to the February 19th release. Carole said that she had already passed on that invitation and indicated that Dr. Todd Horton is planning to attend. The next release will be the Health and Physical Education document. Changes to kindergarten programming and reporting learning to parents are being made. Growing Success will not be rewritten, but an addendum will be created and released later this year. Carole stated that the Ministry is very good to communicate with regard to curriculum.

8. Other Business

Carole opened the floor for further discussion or questions.

Further discussion ensued regarding the pinning ceremony. Carole will welcome discussion at Faculty Council.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be determined at a later date.

Meeting adjourned.