

## Central Teacher Education Network (CTEN) Meeting Minutes April 25, 2024, 3:00 – 4:15 pm HB 313 and via Zoom

**In Attendance:** B. Budaj, D. DeCarlo, B. Flinn, J. Thomas, R. Fuentes, A. Greenwell, M. Gunter, A. Loiselle, C. Mulcahy, S. O'Connor, P. Talty, J. Turner, J. Visone, K. McGrath, B. Clarke, C. Ciotto, J. DeLaura, T. Goh

**CTEN Meeting Minutes** - Approval of January 24 minutes. Motion moved (K. McGrath, J. DeLaura). Minutes accepted.

### Announcements

- Website updated; thank you, Alex and Jen. One item left is membership.
- Upcoming Meetings: This was the last meeting of the year.

### Dean's Office:

- Thank you to Jeremy and all his support with CTEN this year. Welcome Cara Mulcahy, and thank you for stepping up for the Fall. Cara is going out on sabbatical in the spring next year. Please keep that in mind.

- PE only program to lower cut score for edTPA, lowered cut score from 37 to 34.

- **Legislative update:**

There are two bills before the Education committee, moving through House. Bill 5436: this is an act concerning teacher certification. Dr. Talty sat in on this, bill very complex lots of parts. Highlights of that bill are to repeal old certification statutes, some are no longer appropriate, some regulations contradict each other. The council needs to clean up the pieces that don't make sense anymore and that prohibits candidates from becoming teachers. This will eliminate, if it passes, the 3-tier certification system. We would go from initial to provisional and then professional to just Initial to Professional. The feeling was provisional was not really needed. A lot of teachers stayed at the provisional level forever.

Things that will impact us as Ed Prep program involve whether candidates need a master's. Paula gave testimony not in support of the bill, which states that candidates do not need a master's degree to maintain their teacher certification. I feel that this de-professionalizes our work and I feel that candidates should have an advanced degree. This will affect all of us. If this goes through, we need to start thinking very creatively to help teachers maintain their skills and abilities.

Getting rid of outdated endorsements. No longer do middle school endorsements 4-8.

Another active piece: elimination of Praxis II, particularly at elementary teacher level where teachers are taking 4 tests. Also, there is talk about considering secondary level as well. One concern one of the other Deans raised was would we determine sufficient content understanding and knowledge? There will be more discussion about this. The biggest thing, control and advisement over certification will move to a standards board in same way as the medical board and the legal profession has the bar. This would be a standard board comprised of professionals and teachers who would make recommendations for the legislature on areas of certification and regulations. Paula will share updates on these bills as they come out.

2<sup>nd</sup> bill: senate bill 363, would call for the elimination of edTPA as a graduation requirement. Right now, the state cannot hold up certification if they have not passed this. A section of this bill would state that we could use edTPA as an accountability tool for accreditation, but we cannot let this hold up completion of the program if they fail. When might we hear about this? Both bills at this point are significant. Paula thinks the edTPA one will take off. There will probably be some adjustments around 5436, particularly around the sunseting the Praxis and implementing phases into that bill. We should hear right after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

There is significant legislative support; Senator McCrory and Representative Curry are both championing this bill.

- **MAT** – Very pleased in process, the work is exciting, and there is a wonderful re-design ready to go. Will share with the larger design team next week. Hoping to push this through curriculum in the Fall.

**Donna DeCarlo** – Big highlights to MAT: current MAT program is 49 credits if all checks out, we are looking to reduce to 41 credits. Another big piece of it is, as of now, the current MAT program has students enrolled in about 15-16 credits during student teaching semester, which is wild and causes a lot of burnouts. We are looking to reduce that, as well, possibly down to 10 or 11 credits. The overarching thing is that we are

making changes that benefit the students. Once the bigger committee meets next week and makes changes, and it's a go, it will be shared. We will be adding TESOL to this, as well.

- Teacher residency received Buck Foundation funds to do a build around a teacher residency for Paraeducators who hold a four yr. degree. Megan Mackey was instrumental in making this build happen. There will be an additional grant application to Buck of about \$400,000 for the next two years to do a build for a paraeducator pathway for those who do not have a 4 yr. Degree. Pathway 1 is starting this summer; we already have folks interested. Ed Advance is planning on sending their paraeducators to us. Teach for America candidates already have an undergraduate degree and are strongly vetted. We have entered into an agreement with them, and we will be their provider for all their teacher candidates. This will bring more students here to CCSU.
- **CAEP Update, Carol Ciotto**
  - Thank you to everyone from our CAEP lead teams and all the work you have done; thank you to all the faculty that have attended, as well. We made a lot of progress this year with our work. It is making an impact with our AFIs, getting us to a place where moving forward things will be much more seamless and easier for us to implement. This will be better for addressing and analyzing data and making improvements. Data dinners and workshops have gone very well, and I am happy with the attendance. We will be implementing our first revised program assessment report due on May 31st, which will give us our first round of data for content review of standard 1. Helen and I will spend time over the summer reviewing those and looking at trends to set goals and objectives for the upcoming year, with regards to our AFIs and Standard 1. We are in a good place and look forward to what is to come in the upcoming year. Thank you again for all the work and commitment that everyone has provided. Jeremy thanked Carol for all her hard work and commitment, as well. Carol apologizes for overloading your plates knowing you are all very busy. The hope is that this is one and done and that it will be easier as we move forward.
  - SL&L - Thank you to Jen Tine who has done a tremendous amount of work to get us where we are at this point. This is a huge lift; she has done so much work to get this up and running and she will continue to do this because we keep asking her to do things. As we migrate over from Taskstream to SL&L, I think the platform will be very useful to all of us. More user friendly, more things at your fingertips as a faculty member. You will get to build, design, and run your own reports; this way, you won't be waiting on others for this information. Please know Jen will be available in the Dean's office as our point person. We have gone through our own training as well. We had an Early Adopters pilot who are piloting through the end of the semester, and we thank them all for stepping up and taking this on. At the end of May we are inviting the various programs to join us for a training. If you have not responded yet to us, please do, so we have a head count. We would like as many faculty from your departments to be there for this training. I will be sending another reminder out today. The full rollout will be in the Fall 2024. Tan Leng asked about key assessments in SL&L. Overall, the goal is yes for key assessments, but the goal is also to have all assessments in this platform. Also, to have a platform to house assignments, and eventually e-portfolio. Absolutely the first assessments you build will be key assessments. Donna – New students' coming in will be using SL&L for the first time; Donna and Barb will be going to training on building applications. Donna will be forwarding to the faculty anything they need to know about the application.
  - Informational emails will be sent out to the faculty regarding the SL&L process and how it will happen.
  - The goal of SL&L is for accreditation and for annual assessment reporting, but also to give you and students a platform for everything.
  - Exercise science will be allowed to use Taskstream through the summer months to get through the application process. Moving forward, they will need to purchase what they will be using because SL&L has been purchased through the School of Education.

### **District Partners Advisory Board Committee - Barbara Budaj**

- We wanted to co-create something; Thank you to Barbara, Julia, and Joss for helping with this.
- 3 different work sessions, delegates from the advisory board. Focus on Elementary Education. We started talking about what we should co-create. Three different work sessions with delegates from our advisory board. We wanted delegates that focused on Elementary Education.
- We covered a variety of areas.
- Covered current Elementary Ed sequence.
- This bridge document is what our teacher candidates do in the field. Note, this is our first pass at this, and we had a variety of people here putting this document together. The product looks great, and it's my job to put it all together.
- We came up with belief statements, each group came up with their own.

#### [District Partners - Elementary Collaboration - CTEN 4-25 Bridge Document for Elementary Education Field Experience](#)

- Barbara Clark commented on how hard everyone worked on this; it was very powerful a refresh. We want this to be very impactful to our students. Thank you, Barb, for facilitating all of this.
- Carol Ciotto - Co-construction great for CAEP. Carol: thank you to Barb; this was awesome. Hopes to have this done with secondary programs. Carol would like CAEP to see that we are taking steps to address our growth. Jeremy: this is exactly what we have been talking about outreach with the field; great model to follow. Would love to add a blurb about this in the CAEP report.

### **Sub Committee Reports:**

#### **Assessment Subcommittee: Tan Leng Goh and Jeff Thomas**

- No report at this time.
- Tan Leng and Jeff Thomas: their work was covered by Carol.

#### **Appeals and Student Support: Amy Loiselle**

- No report at this time.
- Donna DeCarlo: we only had one denial; student did not reach out to discuss the decision. Also, for spring programs, we had 28 students attend application workshop; Praxis II planning, we had 12 students; advising, we had 14 students attend. Our Professional Program reception we had a successful turnout.
- All of these advising workshops are so critical, and what Donna is doing is wonderful.

#### **Partnerships: Cara Mulcahy**

- Looking at secondary programs while Barb was working with partners to update the elementary program. We are hoping to do something similar with secondary.

#### **Policy and Advocacy: Amanda Greenwell**

- We are still working behind the scenes on the same items we have been on. We will get the annual report to you.

### **Thinking about next year: 2024 – 2025:**

#### **Partnership subcommittee:**

Two disciplinary/all level faculty representatives: Pascal Rekoert, Jeremy Visone

Two education faculty representatives: Melissa Gunter, Leah Scharfenberger

SEPS Dean Office representative: Barbara Budaj

#### **Assessment subcommittee:**

Two disciplinary/all level faculty representative: Tan Leng Goh, Jeff Thomas

Two education faculty representatives: Michael Bartone, Brian Flinn

SEPS Dean Office representatives: Carol Ciotto and Helen Abadiano

**CTEN appeals and student support subcommittee:**

Two disciplinary/all level faculty representatives: Jim DeLaura, Rocio Fuentes

Two education faculty representatives: Barbara Clark

SEPS Dean Office representative: Donna DeCarlo

**Policy and Advocacy:**

SEPS Dean Office representative: Carol Ciotto

Motion by Jesse Turner, Second from Jim DeLaura for our subcommittee slate. The slate has been approved.

Barbara Clark motioned to end meeting, Jesse Turner second.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.**