

**MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION MEETING**  
April 17, 2023

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Barr, Jessica Baxter, Curtis Benjamin, Lacey Boschetto, Steven Camicia, Greg Cox (for Lisa McLachlan), Marilyn Cuch, Amanda Dawson, Nichelle Frank, Tom Higbee, Jana Johnson (for Peter Mathesius), Kelli Munns, Greg Podgorski, Sylvia Read, Allison Riddle, Jessica Rivera-Mueller, Marla Robertson, Kady Schneiter, Maria Spicer-Escalante, Lynette Tervort, Nate Trauntvein, Greg Wheeler

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jeni Buist, Dennise Gackstetter, Spencer Holmgren, Jessica Koltz, Adrianna Mortensen, Lauri Nelson

**GUESTS:** Bobbi Crabtree, Darcie Peterson

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: <https://usu.box.com/s/lgwp8zhws1iat76a965hgok4p05w2qyw>  
Minutes for March 2023 were approved as written.

**Information/Discussion Items:**

1. USBE Updates – *Greg Cox*  
Greg Cox shared some draft standards for preparation programs they have been working on and are now available for public comment. The USBE is seeking input on these draft standards for EPP program approval from universities and USBE programs like Special Education and APPEL programs at the district level. Sylvia Read said they look very similar to the AAQEP standards, so they feel familiar. Greg said they were going to be working on a crosswalk between what our standards and AAQEP standards might look like. Sylvia said the program approval will happen one year before our next AAQEP site visit in 2026, so we will be able to use our draft AAQEP report largely as our state approval report. Draft standards can be viewed here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LVV6u-eAaGnafR80QpJt3ZAmyUbwKyl/edit>
2. Sylvia Read reminded everyone that SPED 4000 has admission to ECE, ELED, and STEP as a prerequisite. When we were making updates to the catalog, SPED 4000 should have been moved to post admission. Curriculum will be back up again in July so that changes to the catalog can be made. The changes will not appear in the 2023-2024 catalog, but Banner will enforce the prerequisite anyway. SPED 4000 is a course for which students need to know the content well and not be taken so early in their coursework that they do not remember what they learned when it comes time to begin student teaching and take the PPAT, when they must write about how they made modifications and accommodations. Council members who have a STEP program will want to be sure that their information in the catalog matches this as well. Sylvia said she also made a global change in the catalog to get rid of the Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 language and it should be updated in the 2023-2024 catalog.

Darcie Peterson indicated the change for the SPED 4000 course from 2 credits to 3 credits will be effective beginning summer 2023 semester and will include the inclusion content. Sylvia was recently in a Special Education meeting with Leah Voorhies, who shared research about the importance and effectiveness of inclusion:

- a. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00224669221097945>

- b. <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cell/what-we-do/pdf/Inclusion-study-handout.pdf>
- c. <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cell/what-we-do/pdf/Inclusion-study-ppt-short.pdf>

3. Admission to STEP and number of required credits to apply. Update. – *Marilyn Cuch*

Marilyn Cuch said she had met with Amanda Dawson from the Theatre Arts department and Jessica Rivera-Mueller from the English department about the need to get students in their programs sooner so they can take their classes earlier. This coincides with what has been happening across the United States, where students are in clinicals earlier rather than later, figuring out what they want to do with their major or if they want to pursue teaching as a career. Marilyn said they received input from their faculty and spoke to other individuals in the advising department to understand all the implications. They were going to propose this recommendation in their undergraduate TEAL meeting on Friday, April 21, and then bring this back in the fall to the next CTE meeting in September and make sure it is officially voted on. They have proposed that for STEP admissions, students may apply when they have taken a minimum of 12 credit hours, including English Composition with a C+ or better, 3 breadth classes with a C or better, be in good academic standing at USU, and have a cleared background check. Good academic standing is what would be required for USU rather than having the stipulation of a 3.0 GPA or higher. Marilyn clarified that the 12 credits could include concurrent enrollment courses and transfer courses that went toward their breadth courses or other required courses. One of the reasons for making this change is to avoid additional barriers to get into a major and not discourage students who would like to pursue a major. There is an initiative coming out of the provost office about the 2.0 for graduation, but not necessarily a 2.0 for program admission. It is also about equity and access and making sure that we are not being elitist in the way that we construct things based on old models that don't necessarily apply as we diversify our student population.

4. District Feedback – *Allison Riddle, Lynette Tervort*

Allison Riddle said they were in their heavy testing time right now, so their teachers are working hard helping their students prepare to do their best on the exams for the next several weeks. They anticipate hiring 100 elementary teachers, 100 secondary teachers, and 100 licensed professionals to work in their schools next year. They are going into the full day kindergarten arena in the fall, and they have only had a few schools doing it this year, so they are excited to see what they can do to help teachers move into that new structure. Sylvia Read asked Allison if she would share how Davis District approaches personalized, competency-based learning. She said there were several colleagues in her department that were heavily involved with that in their district and said they would be willing to share their process. Those involved were Daron Kennett, Danielle Summers, Kelly Mudro, and others in the teaching and learning department.

Allison invited anyone on the CTE to attend their R&R Conference in Davis District. It is a mix of a tech conference and best practices of instruction. It is only for teachers in Davis District, but if we have professors who are curious, and they want to come and see what that kind of a conference looks like, she would certainly get them registered and prepared to come to the conference. There is no fee, and it is at Farmington High School. They have some excellent keynotes, and the conference will be held June 21-22.

Lynette Tervort said there would be no paraprofessionals for the kindergarten classes and no full-day paraprofessionals in their district for the upcoming school year. They will have some paraprofessionals come for literacy group time. She said their district would be trying to limit class sizes to 20 students or less. Their current class sizes are 23-24 students.

Allison Riddle said they have also had some losses in their title schools for next year because of the reduction in funding. There will also be no elementary math instructional coaches at their title schools. She said it had something to do with the 2020 census and because ESSA funds were gone.

**5. Northern Utah UniServ Updates – *Curtis Benjamin***

Curtis Benjamin said that state income taxes are currently arranged as the principal source of public education funding, higher education, individuals with special needs, and for children as per recent amendment. The legislature, through its S.J.R. 10 proposal that was passed, is looking at getting a change to that amendment that will go before the public in 2024. There is some discussion because of what the legislature sees as an imbalance of funding roads, social services, and a host of things that are funded through the sales tax, to repurpose the income tax as well for those other kinds of funding needs. It is something that UEA is looking very closely at right now. There is not yet an official position, but they are really interested, in that Utah is something of an anomaly (compared to other states) in that we have this dedicated bucket that we say is for public education. We have had it for a couple of generations now since the 1940s, and it is something that we need to look at seriously over the next year. So, if that is the direction that they really want to go, Curtis will probably have more to tell us when we meet again in the fall.

UEA's house of delegates will be meeting in late April, and their membership, through the representation of the delegates, will also be looking at it. UEA is a member driven, member governed organization, so they take input and direction from the members. It is the S.J.R. 10 legislation that authorizes the putting on the ballot for referendum any constitutional change to the income tax. Curtis said he knows that our classroom teachers, administrators, and all the members of the council are doing a lot of heavy lifting right now, and expressed appreciation for the districts with which he works, and for all that USU does in preparing teachers to come into the classroom.

**Next meeting: September 11, 2023**