

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION MEETING
March 21, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Barr, Jessica Baxter, Curtis Benjamin, Lacey Boschetto, Marilyn Cuch, Nichelle Frank, Dennise Gackstetter, Tom Higbee, Scott Hunsaker, Cindy Jones, Jessica Koltz, Eric Mohr, Kelli Munns, Lauri Nelson, Greg Podgorski, Sylvia Read, Allison Riddle, Jessica Rivera-Mueller, Marla Robertson, Kady Schneider, Nate Trauntvein, Greg Wheeler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Steve Carlsen, Chloe Christopher, April Denton, Malia Hite, Alden Jack, Peter Mathesius, Matt Omasta, Maria Spicer-Escalante

GUESTS: Greg Cox, Jana Johnson, Darcie Peterson, Anita Shuman, Denise Taylor

Action Items

1. Approval of February 2022 Minutes - <https://usu.box.com/s/obbddr8tkue9x8w7169j2hbe3mdcq67k>
Minutes for February 2022 were approved as written.

Information/Discussion Items:

1. USBE Updates – *Greg Cox*
Greg Cox said they were working on the elementary general competencies right now. Their content specialists have been working with their groups and have some drafts ready to be reviewed. This would be for science, math, health, physical education, etc. Reading/literacy has been completed and they are working on completing the rest of them. Greg gave a link for the Qualtrics survey and within that survey, there is a link to view all these drafts. They can go in and leave a comment about where they would like to go in terms of general competences for these areas. He also mentioned that USIMS is now available for students to complete the ethics review, background check, and CACTUS account creation. They would like us to start directing students to USIMS instead of the old system. If we start noticing any issues with students having a hard time signing up or any other problems, please let the licensing team at USBE know and they will try to get them fixed. Sylvia informed the council that the USU licensing office staff cannot see anything in USIMS, but it will be mirrored in CACTUS, so we will rely on the students to give us feedback on how it is working for them for getting background checks and educator ethics reviews.
2. Sylvia watched the Law and Licensing committee last Friday when the discussion on the Praxis was held. There was not much discussion because it is not a controversial issue. Instead, they spent some time talking about school counseling and LEA licenses and that became a more important discussion. With the Praxis and the other changes with the R277-301, those changes go to the full State School Board with the April agenda, and they will be voted on and then they must be out for public comment for 30 days. The final vote on these items will not occur until the May 5 School Board meeting, so we have a little time before we find out the ultimate outcome. Sylvia provided the link to the Educator License Newsletter [R277-301 and other updates](#) for the council to read the version that was voted on.
3. School Counseling and LEA Licenses – *Jessie Koltz*
Jesse Koltz, director of the School Counseling master's program, talked about information she shared with the Law and Licensing committee last Friday from the school counseling perspective. She was hearing from students in her practicum class that have been hired, even without an LEA specific license, as a

school counselor to do school counseling related duties. It sparked some concern ethically and legally, so she had a conversation with Malia. Jesse was invited to do public comment, and she spoke to the need for school counselors and their training programs to be able to be licensed, at minimum, with an associate educator license in school counseling as they are going through their program, especially since they are in practicum and internship and are still getting assessed on their skills, dispositions, and competencies to complete the training to earn a Professional License for school counseling. This supports the need for school counselors to at least have an associate educator license as they are going through their practicum and internship placements. Sylvia Read said they had their Licensing Applauds Guidance Group meeting, which is a group that Malia Hite has brought together to advise the staff at USBE on issues of licensing. It includes representatives from higher education, school districts, charter schools, and regional education centers. Everyone on the committee agreed that school counselors should have the correct qualifications. There was some concern that there are 30 school counselors currently working using an LEA (Local Education Agency) license. The LEA license is a district specific license or a charter specific license. They cannot use the LEA license in any other school or district. The question was raised about the capacity to produce enough school counselors, especially in the rural areas. Jesse collected some data on our capacity at USU, and Sylvia forwarded that to Malia. Jesse said our school counseling program is going to be available statewide every year instead of every other year, so that will help with the shortage. The Kaysville campus will no longer be offering the school counseling program in person. The Professional School Counselor education program has moved to broadcast format. This will be valuable in meeting the needs for school counselors in the rural areas. The school board meetings are available on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/c/USBEMedia/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=5

4. Majors/Minors/Endorsements – *Sylvia Read*

Sylvia Read stressed that we need to make sure that our majors and minors are aligned with the new USBE endorsements for secondary level work. We are not required to have a course-to-course alignment, but our courses need to match the competencies that are in the endorsement. She has been submitting the majors and minors to Greg Cox at USBE for approval. We have full approval for psychology, sociology, and computer science. Sylvia will be reaching out to departments to make sure that we have all of the major and minor endorsement approvals in place before July of 2023. Program information for art and music have also been submitted. Greg Cox said the art content specialist retired, so the process of finding a new one took a while. Kelly Bruce Glynn is the new art content specialist, but she is still getting situated. They have been working on the endorsement forms. The old endorsement forms will be used until they get the new endorsement forms updated.

5. Sylvia Read met with Brittany Cummins, Education Advisor to Governor Spencer Cox, on March 17. They talked about the innovative things we are doing at Utah State to meet the workforce needs of the state. When Sylvia asked her what the governor's priorities for education were, she pointed to the [One Utah Road Map, version 2](#). His priority for education is funding and equity. He wants to increase education funding and address disparities to support students and effective educators and leaders. His second priority was governance - to govern for student achievement. They had an interesting conversation about school report cards and Brittany would like to see them go away. She has a nuanced understanding of why some schools don't do well on the School Report Card that has to do with the demographics of the school or the mission of the school. Allison Riddle said she worked on the original Road Map when she was on Governor Herbert's Education Excellence Commission and worked on a section that was focused on mentoring new teachers. It's hard to consider supporting new teachers with no funding. Most districts are doing the very best they can to make it happen. Allison stressed that if we support these great new teachers that we are bringing to them from our university programs, they will do much better work and

their students will learn more. We need to get something going to help districts improve their induction programs.

6. District Feedback –*Allison Riddle*

Allison Riddle said they were gearing up for hiring teachers for next year. They have about 37 openings for elementary education positions right now. That is a little high for this time, because it has been a year of change and they have seen more leave than before. They have 80 secondary education positions that have opened this spring for next year and 15 have been filled. They also just opened their “grow your own scholarship”. They had about 40 last year and funded just under \$1,000,000 of tuition. They had some individuals who got started and dropped out because it is hard to balance home and family while you are working as a paraprofessional. In this program it is either someone who needs to get a bachelor’s degree to teach, or it can be someone who would like to get a counseling master’s degree. She said any information we have that we could give them about the flexibility of remote classes for anyone who is working in Davis District would be appreciated. They will share that with all of those who get the “grow your own scholarship” because they get to choose the university that they attend. Kate Williams is their contact for the “grow your own scholarship” program.

7. PPAT Updates – *Anita Shuman, Darcie Peterson*

Sylvia Read said our student teachers have been doing their PPAT Tasks. We have not received the preliminary scores for Task 2 and 3 yet. They should be sent to students by March 23. Darcie Peterson said students are asking if they should wait and get their feedback before submitting Task 4 on Monday. The special education students are not as concerned about Task 4 as they were for Task 2 and 3. The students in special education are used to being far more explicit in their writing so they are having a hard time pulling back and being more general for the PPAT Tasks 2 and 3. Sylvia said it was the opposite for elementary and secondary students. The elementary education students were provided extra days for writing and submitting their tasks. They heard back from a couple of students that they really appreciated the extra days. They also heard back from mentor teachers and supervisors that said it really seemed to make a difference to reduce the stress the students were feeling. Sylvia said when they get their feedback on Tasks 2 and 3 on a Thursday, but Task 4 is due on a Monday, it does not give them much time to apply formative feedback. The feedback they get back is also very general.

Darcie Peterson said the Utah State Board of Education had talked about using the LETRS Assessment as well as the reading assessment. That would have a big impact on their students, especially their preschool special education students. She wondered what the timeline was for making those decisions. Greg Cox said he was unsure on the timeline, but Sarah Wiebke or Lisa McLaughlin would be the best contacts for this information. Sylvia Read indicated that USBE has been charged to come up with a competency-based alternative to the Pearson Foundations of Reading test.

Sylvia Read watched a webinar on the EdTPA ([link to webinar and paper](#)), which is similar to PPAT. There was a study done by two economists on the effect of EdTPA on teacher licensing, teacher supply, and student achievement. They found evidence that EdTPA had adverse effects on student learning, particularly students who are higher achieving students. It reduced the number of graduates from teacher preparation programs by 14%. They also found that students of color disproportionately failed the EdTPA. One of the things they concluded was that we need more mixed methods research because we do not know the reasons that underlie the statistical findings of this study.

8. Northern Utah UniServ Updates – *Curtis Benjamin*

Curtis mentioned that the legislature just concluded, and it was the best of law making and it was the worst of law making. He was grateful to see a number of ill-advised pieces of legislation that would have increased transparency efforts and workload on teachers to produce lesson plans well in advance, with penalties associated with changing midcourse. They were gratified to see another first voucher bill in 15 years that was generalized, defeated in the house. It was a result of our members being exercised and writing their legislators, but it was also in combination with stakeholders, superintendents, and parent groups that were united in a way that he has not seen in the eight years that he has been serving as the UniServ director. He almost wanted to shake the hand of some of the proponents of this legislation and say thank you. You have done something that we could not do by ourselves and that is to unite us in a common cause for public education. Karen Peterson talked to their members and said that there is more support than they realize in the legislature that there are a lot of people that are trying to do the things that are good for kids and teachers. They saw that with the House Bill 9396 which provided educator directed dollars for educator directed professional time. They could at least recognize up to about 32 hours depending on the district. That is extra time that is going into things like letters, PD, or just planning. He said it was really gratifying to see the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) get back up to 6%, which is where it was before the pandemic.

Next meeting: April 18, 2022