

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION MEETING
March 20, 2023

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jeni Buist, Spencer Holmgren, Adrianna Mortensen, Lauri Nelson, Maria Spicer-Escalante

GUESTS: Bobbi Crabtree, Sharla Hart, Brooke Lambert, Julia Lyman, Darcie Peterson

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval of Minutes: <https://usu.box.com/s/3qhu9bi0ctpr7mkeualzdk6ovv67sovn>
Minutes for February 2023 were approved as written.
2. A vote was held regarding this policy, approved by TEAL on Friday, March 17, 2023, which would apply to early childhood, elementary, and secondary education teacher candidates: *“Students in their student teaching semester are required to pass the PPAT with a score of 36 per USBE requirements. If a student obtains a score of 0-19 on PPAT, they will be required to repeat student teaching. If a student obtains a score of 20-35, they must apply to resubmit to ETS as many tasks as they need (from 1-3 tasks) by the Task Resubmission Registration Deadline for that semester and resubmit the tasks to ETS by the last day of finals for that semester in order to bring up their score. In this case, graduation and recommendation for licensure to USBE will be delayed until an updated score is received, as long as all other graduate requirements have been met. If scores are not received within 45 calendar days after the last day of finals, graduation and recommendation for licensure to USBE will be postponed to the following semester.”*

Sharla motioned to approve the PPAT policy for students who do not get a passing score. Greg Podgorski seconded the motion.

A discussion was held. Greg Podgorski expressed disapproval of having graduation based on performance on an external exam. Licensing is one thing because that is controlled by the state, but if we have students that have fulfilled all requirements we have set internally, he was uncomfortable with graduation being dependent on passing a particular external exam. Jessica Baxter said her understanding from the last CTE meeting discussion was that we had decided as a group not to tie graduation status to the PPAT score report. Sylvia said we clearly need to rethink the wording because we did not intend to tie graduation to the PPAT, except to the extent that they might need to repeat student teaching. Allison Riddle said that from a district perspective, since they are the ones who are going to hire these teacher candidates, the bare minimum is the degree. It is very important that they graduate and have that capability to be considered for a teaching position. They would only qualify at that point for the associate license. An external exam does not necessarily speak to how well they did during practicum and student teaching.

A vote was taken, and the PPAT policy change was **voted down**, which means that the status quo will continue. Students will continue to be required to take the PPAT during student teaching. A passing score will allow USU to recommend them for professional educator license. A score below 36 will mean that the student can either resubmit tasks until a 36 is earned OR apply directly to USBE for an associate educator license.

Information/Discussion Items:

1. USBE Updates – *Malia Hite*

Legislative updates, <https://usu.box.com/s/kpwtm3zy7kbgbwhm1oy9xg62cu19v36n>

Malia Hite shared updates from the last legislative session. She said the USBE prepared 486 fiscal notes for bills this legislative session, which was unprecedented. They have the largest public education budget that was passed by more than a billion dollars. It was for pre-K through higher education, and it increased the WSU by 6%. The educator salary adjustment increased to \$8400. If the teacher has not had an unsatisfactory rating for three consecutive years, they qualify for this benefit. They removed the requirement of grading with A, B, C rating and now they just report them using a dashboard a dashboard that shows detailed information on how students were faring in several categories, including proficiency levels for testing in math, science and reading.

Malia said the legislature will be funding full-day kindergarten.

She talked about the [Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact](#). Utah is the first state to sign it into law, and once we get up to 10 states, then anybody with a professional level license in one of the compact states can immediately teach in the other states. They would just be required to have a background check.

Licensing and retention data, <https://usu.box.com/s/whj9obved0xfsl9tsy6690v18ca85siq>

Malia said they saw about 1500 fewer associate licenses awarded this year than the year previous. They have started looking at teacher retention. If teachers start teaching with a professional license, they're more likely to stay in the profession than if they start with some other kind of license. It validates that starting teaching before you have a professional license is not a good idea because they are not prepared to do the job.

2. Admission to STEP requires 30 credits. Why? Should this change? – *Marilyn Cuch*

Marilyn Cuch shared the current requirements for admission into the STEP program which is 30 credits and a 3.0 GPA. Sylvia then opened the discussion for allowing students early admission into STEP. Jessica Rivera-Mueller would like to have students apply during their freshman year so they could start taking classes during their sophomore year. By allowing students admission into the STEP program in their first or second semester, it would give them a chance to have a clinical experience and one of the methods courses to get a feel for whether they want to pursue that degree. This will be voted on at the next TEAL meeting, April 21, 2023. It can then be discussed and voted on at the next CTE meeting in September 2023.

Sylvia Read made a related comment that the requirement to have a 3.0 GPA to get into the teacher education programs will need to change. The university policy states that you are in good standing if you have a 2.0 GPA, so programs should not be requiring higher than that to get into their majors. **CORRECTION: the overall, cumulative GPA to graduate should match what the university requires, which is 2.0.**

3. Secondary education majors without minors and student teaching placement (and employability) – *Sharla Hart*

Sharla Hart has had some difficulties with student teaching placements for secondary education majors who do not have minors. For example, a chemistry teaching major by itself with no minor is hard to find a full day of student teaching without a minor to lean on. Amanda Dawson said she encourages her students to add a minor but there is just not room in their schedule. She has a student who will be doing student teaching in fall 2023 that will need to take two classes during summer 2023 to complete her minor.

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

Allison Riddle said they have seven Aggie student teachers right now and one of them was just offered a position in their district for fall. They have several openings at her school and are just negotiating with their board and their teachers' association and they will begin hiring. Being the second largest district, there will be a lot of hiring.

Lynette Tervort said her district would be doing a lot of hiring as well. Because of the increase in full-day kindergarten, they have been hiring like crazy and principals are working hard trying to figure out how they are going to schedule next year. She has been thinking about next year with no paraprofessionals for the kindergarten classes, since they lost their jobs.

5. Northern Utah UniServ Updates – *Curtis Benjamin*

Next meeting: April 17, 2023