Meeting Minutes

Teacher Education Program
TEAC Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2015
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm – TEO meeting room

Present: Wendy Carr (Chair/TEO), Sandra Scott (EDCP), Shawna Faber (ECPS), Marianne McTavish (LLED), Amy Metcalfe (EDST), Jessica La Rochelle (NITEP), Anne Phelan (Centre for the Study of Teacher Education), Claire Rushton (seconded teachers rep), Rod Brown (TEO), John Yamamoto (TEO)

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Post-Faculty meeting update

   - TEAC Terms of Reference and consultation process

The committee discussed potential changes to the TEAC Terms of Reference and consultation process in order to improve thoroughness and transparency.

Committee members discussed how they share TEAC items with their departments: varies from a written and/or verbal report in each department meeting to items being shared only if deemed contentious or directly affecting one’s department.

The committee concluded that TEAC needs to outline a recommended consultation process in a flowchart.

John pointed out that there needs to be a reasonable timeline for consultation so that proposed changes can be fully discussed but that questions or concerns be brought to the next TEAC meeting after an item has been shared with departments. Amy explained that department meeting agendas are packed; there may not necessarily be enough time to discuss TEAC items before the next meeting.

The role of undergraduate advisory committees in the consultation process was also discussed. Shawna explained that ECPS does not have an undergraduate advisory committee. Anne pointed out that in EDCP, the undergraduate advisory committee is responsible for bringing issues forward. Wendy indicated that CCASA is also creating a process flowchart for bringing forward and consulting about changes being brought forward by departments and that timelines would be discussed in that process.
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Action: Wendy will draft a flow chart outlining the TEAC consultation process; this has already been sent to department heads for comment and will be discussed at the next TEAC meeting (Thursday, December 17).

- Psychology as a Teachable Subject

The Cat 1 change process has now been tabled (as at the recent Faculty meeting). ECPS will prepare full inter-departmental consultation package (with new methods course proposals) and share it along with completed consultation forms when ready.

Action: ECPS will prepare full proposal and consult with other departments.

4. Inquiry (EDUC 450, 451, 452) – Wendy

Wendy shared results of sub-committee consultation with recent grads as well as comments from elementary and secondary inquiry instructors. She proposed the possibility of aligning the secondary seminar credit value with that of elementary seminars (from 3 credits to 2 credits) and possible shift from July-August to right after practicum/CFE in May-June if another course could shift to July-August. Credit alignment would allow creation of a new 3-credit course; timing shift would allow secondary students to stay together as a group and inquiry-practicum connections to be made right after practicum/CFE.

- Inquiry I and II are working well but some minor adjustments (project, e-folio, ongoing nature of inquiry) needed
- Concerns about Inquiry III’s contribution to the overall program
- Reduction of credits creates challenges to workload creation
- keeping secondary students together would improve the experience as would positioning the course right after practicum/CFE
- recent grads speak highly of the value of Inquiry courses and how they apply to their teaching.
- Inquiry is also valued from a district point of view since it establishes relationships with schools and the university.

5. EDST 403 & 404 (secondary) – Amy

Amy shared EDST’s response to combining EDST 403 & 404. She explained that her colleagues in the department thought the current 1-credit courses are difficult to manage; however, combining 403 & 404 to create a 2-credit course does not solve the problem. EDST prefers 3-credit courses. She added that sessionals instructors should be included in future discussions.

6. Possible new elementary cohort – Wendy
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Updates about the possibility of a new elementary cohort in Indigenous Education (based on Dr. Jo-Ann Archibald’s research) will be shared at the next TEAC meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Next meeting: December 17, 2:30-4:00 pm in the TEO meeting room