Meeting Minutes

Teacher Education Program
TEAC – Teacher Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
2:00-3:30pm – TEO meeting room

Attendees: Wendy Carr (Chair/TEO), Tony Clarke (Centre for the Study of Teacher Education), Shawna Faber (ECPS), Carl Leggo (LLED), Jason Ellis (EDST), Claire Rushton (TEO), Sandra Scott (EDCP)
Regrets: Jessica LaRochelle (NITEP), Jolene Loveday (BEd alumna)

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2016
Minor edits were made to the minutes (after consultation with committee members) and have been uploaded to: http://teach.educ.ubc.ca/faculty/committees/ regarding Item 8 – Adding a Planning Course to Secondary Program.

3. Professional Learning Links to Field (Dr. Mark Edwards)
Mark Edwards presented his findings on key teacher professional learning needs and opportunities in school districts based on his meeting with instructional leaders in 7 lower mainland school districts, data from the Alumni Choice Survey and feedback he received for the 2016 summer institutes. Six out of 7 districts identified special education and inclusive education as high need areas for teacher professional learning. Three specifically requested that BEd teacher candidate preparation address this area more adequately. Engaging the new curriculum (formative assessment, reporting) was the second area identified as high priority.

To address this increased need in specific professional learning areas, Faculty of Education is taking various steps. PDCE coordinates courses and summer institutes that provide entry-level knowledge in these professional learning areas and can lead to a diploma. For example, Jennifer Katz (ECPS), a specialist in universal design offers a course in the summer institute that can ladder into a diploma. In addition, the BEd program offers a special education course elective (at extra cost) for teacher candidates that can ladder into a Special Education diploma.

4. Proposal for New Outdoor Education cohort
The committee reviewed the proposal for a new Outdoor Education cohort in the BEd program forwarded by Dr. Hartley Banack and Dr. Sandra Scott, EDCP. Please see the attached proposal for more details.

The committee noted that, while the cohort’s theme provided an interesting focus/way of learning, there was insufficient evidence of substantive district interest or liaison, and it was unclear how courses across the 4 departments would embed outdoor learning. The committee also noted in the guidelines that the cohort lead must be a tenure-track faculty member, which would be Dr. Scott. There were a few questions about whether the purely outdoor education focus might be broadened to include themes that are featured in BC’s redesigned curricula, e.g., STEAM or HOPE. It was recommended that the proposal be strengthened by streamlining the content so
that the key criteria are addressed, attending to the questions raised by TEAC and that it could be reconsidered for 2018-19.

Wendy suggested the possibility of adding an outdoor- and place-conscious learning elective to the expanded West Kootenay Rural Teacher Education Program (WKTEP) and that EDCP be consulted to see if Dr. Banack might teach it.

5. Proposal for WKTEP Expansion
To meet the increasing interest and demand for rural education in BC, the Faculty of Education has applied to the Ministry of Advanced Education for funding to expand WKTEP. Any expansion would include having some teacher candidates undertake their extended practicum in rural schools outside the West Kootenay districts. Different course schedule models are currently under discussion.

6. WestCAST debrief
Teacher Education Office staff and a group of teacher candidates recently attended the 2017 WestCAST Conference in Nanaimo where they co-presented and interacted with faculty and teacher candidates from across western Canada. Claire Rushton shared some conference highlights.

Next meeting date: Thursday, March 16, 2017, 3:00pm-4:30pm