Meeting Minutes

Teacher Education Program
TEAC – Teacher Education Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
TEO meeting room
2:00-3:30 p.m.

Attendees: Marianne McTavish (Chair/TEO), Maureen Kendrick (LLED), Anne Phelan (Centre for Study of Teacher Education), Claire Rushton (TEO), Shawna Faber (ECPS) Judith Walker (EDST) Scott Goble (EDCP)

Regrets: Jan Hare (NITEP)

1. Approval of Agenda
   The “Other Business” agenda item was moved up in the order of the agenda.

2. Approval of previous minutes - January 24, 2019
   The minutes were approved with minor edits.

3. Inquiry seminar update
   Marianne referenced the meeting held on March 4 about the Inquiry courses. CSTE has proposed changing the course title from “Inquiry” to “Teacher Inquiry” which would be a CAT 2 change.

   The process for this was discussed. It was proposed that TEO will complete the CAT 2 change form as this is an EDUC course and the change will go to the departments for discussion through the CCASA department representatives. It was noted that there has been some addition of curriculum methodology into the Inquiry seminars at the secondary level.

4. Other business
   It was suggested that TEAC might want to meet more often than once a month given the volume of topics to be discussed from the External Review. Some parts of the review require addressing in the short term, others are longer term issues. It was suggested that some working groups should be formed in the various areas of the external review and to set priorities. Requests for changes to course timing and student workload could be addressed in the shorter term.
Marianne explained that there are options on the table to move some EPSE courses around and to move some elementary courses in EDCP into Term 1. There was more discussion about the short length and intensity of the program and whether the program should be made longer.

5. External Review continuation

The patterns identified in the previous meeting were discussed at further length. Departmental input was presented.

1) Addressing racism and discrimination in the program.

2) Collaboration and communication (interdepartmental discussion needed), both administratively and in content of courses.

3) Space/flexibility within the program and program length:
EDCP explained the concept of flexibility within courses and subject areas in EDCP. At the elementary/middle years level, some courses could rotate through different terms. We tend to be constrained by lack of program flexibility and staffing leading to timetable fragmentation. Classroom space is a constraint as well.

4) Addressing fragmentation in the program including staffing fragmentation and numbers of credits allocated for courses (see #3).

5) Assessment and grading:
Assessment pass/fail grading as opposed to grades was raised in the review. Further clarification is needed for pass/fail as there are issues around consistency. For instance, what are best ways to mentor new instructors to the pass/fail system? The current system is “hit and miss”.

The following items were added to the previously identified patterns:

6) Class size
There are concerns around space and class size. We cannot take more than the current intake (760 students including WKTEP).

7) Teacher inquiry.

8) The role of cohort/secondary subject area autonomy/pedagogical autonomy:
CSTE discussed the value of autonomy within the cohorts or subject areas as is evident in the TELL-3C cohort model.
9) Cohort Rotation/ Regeneration / Rejuvenation and how to address this.

Marianne asked each representative to go back to their department and see if all 9 items are well represented. The next step for TEAC is to identify issues associated with each theme and to prioritize the tasks for break-out groups to work on.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 28, 2019, TEO meeting room, 2-3:30 p.m.

Regrets: Maureen Kendrick (Kendrick James), Scott Goble (possibility - Cynthia Nicol)