



Meeting Minutes

Teacher Education Program
TEAC - Teacher Education Advisory Committee
Tuesday, June 30, 2020
Virtual meeting
2:00-3:30 p.m.

Attendees: Marianne McTavish (Chair/TEO), John Yamamoto (TEO), Shawna Faber (ECPS), Scott Goble (EDCP), Kedrick James (LLED), Judith Walker (EDST), Jan Hare (NITEP), Anne Phelan (Centre for Study of Teacher Education)

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated.

2. Approval of previous minutes - May 26, 2020

The minutes will be updated with minor updates.

3. TEO Updates

- The Elementary & Middle Years teacher candidates finished their practicum on Friday, June 30. The Secondary teacher candidates finished their practicum in May and have completed Summer Term 1 coursework. There were good conversations around, and adjustments to, online learning in response to the letter received from Secondary teacher candidates. There will be approximately 50 teacher candidates doing the 6-week supplemental practicum in the fall.
- The placements for the practicum for the incoming teacher candidates will be unfolding in the coming months once we receive word regarding school opening status in September from districts and the Provincial Health Officer.
- Over the 6 weeks of Summer Term 1 courses, the feedback from teacher candidates regarding group work and engagement was positive. Some teacher candidates have not been able to get in touch with the instructors regarding the Summer Term 2 course schedules. We have asked the instructors to be as accommodating as possible as the TCs deal with childcare and elder care schedules.



- Communication from the TEO to the incoming teacher candidates with regards to online learning expectations and the possibility of face-to-face practicum has been ongoing. Questions and accommodations are being dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- Attendance issues have improved since the initial start to online classes. Clear expectations regarding synchronous and asynchronous work is appreciated.

4. Pass/Fail marking policy

In the February 25th TEAC meeting, a working group on the Pass/Fail marking policy was initiated. In light of the pandemic and given that moving to online teaching and learning is the priority, it was suggested to work under the current parameters but keep this conversation open. The list of issues and themes will be revisited. Different subject areas will need to be taken into consideration when discussing these guidelines and policies.

5. EDST challenges

There are problems with staffing the one-credit EDST summer courses as all sessions are scheduled at the same time. This imposes challenges, especially for the course coordinators, to find instructors. Scheduling the sessions in different times throughout the day may address this problem but revisioning the one credit course will be needed. The same issue exists for EDUC 440 in terms of finding instructors. It was suggested to build the one credit course into another 3-credit course. This reconfiguration may require BC Teachers Council's approval. The EDST representative will take this suggestion back to the department.

Another challenge that EDST is facing is staffing in the French sections of courses. There is a high turnover rate for hiring sessional or PhD students. Dr. Valia Spiliotopoulos, who is teaching and coordinating the French Cohort, may be able to assist with finding instructors from the field. Workloads for teaching and coordination need to be carefully planned. Instructors need to be able to link theory to practice, to understand the pedagogy, the learning context, and the school. It is the same issue for EDUC 440.

6. Task force updates & support moving forward

Dr. Jan Hare updated the committee on the work of the Task Force on Race, Indigeneity, and Social Justice (RISJ). This task force emerged from the NITEP and TEO external review reports. Dr. Hare and Dr. McTavish have been called upon the roles of co-chairs. The task force work was previously paused in light of the pandemic and its



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work has been reconvened. The Task force on RISJ has its mandate and terms of reference to guide the group work and activities.

Members want to see this task force moving forward in the current climate and to know how to best move forward as an entire group. LLED has formed an Antiracism Caucus. It is encouraged for other departments to take up similar actions as they see fit. The task force on RISJ will serve as a consulting group but not implementation committee.

Dr. Sheila Cote-Meek, vice-president of Equity, People and Culture (EP&C), York University, is invited as a keynote to present and talk about racism in a broad way at the BEd program student and faculty orientation in September. We will be mindful on taking up the theme throughout the year.

EDST is putting together a series of speakers through the TLEF fund. In the recent event of Black Lives Matter, students demand safe spaces to talk. TEO has arranged three Zoom drop-in open conversations for students to engage antiracism topics with three school district vice-principals of color.

Next Meeting: TBD