



## Meeting Minutes

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Teacher Education Program  
TEAC - Teacher Education Advisory Committee  
Thursday, April 22, 2021  
Virtual meeting  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Marianne McTavish (Chair/TEO), John Yamamoto (TEO), Shawna Faber (ECPS), Scott Goble (EDCP), Kedrick James (LLED), Jason Ellis (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 - March 25, 2021

The minutes were approved as circulated.

### 3. Office of Indigenous Education Updates

Dr. Hare shared with the committee that there are 15 students admitted to the post-degree specialization in Indigenous Education. Coursework is being developed. There will be two distinct Indigenous Education cohorts - one for those who choose from the cohort selections and one from the Indigenous Education specialization. Departments have done an excellent job of matching expertise to work with the cohorts. The Curriculum Enhancement project is one particular example. Moving forward, different perspectives from a variety of readings and diversified authors will need to be looked at.

### 4. TEO Updates

The Secondary teacher candidates are at the end of week 7 of their extended practicum and the midpoint conferences for the most part have been conducted. Elementary teacher candidates have just finished their week 3 of the extended practicum. The Chair updated the committee on the following topics.

#### **COVID-19 Updates (Vaccines)**

The vaccination rollout is different from district to district. The Surrey District vaccination program has been well underway since spring break. Teacher candidates



can get their vaccinations if there is a letter from the principal. Faculty Advisors are not on the essential worker list for vaccinations. However, Faculty Advisors may get their vaccinations sooner as the age limit for getting the AstraZeneca vaccine is moving lower. The Surrey District has limited face-to-face observation due to the increasing number of COVID cases. Faculty Advisors are trying to limit their time in schools by observing in the classroom and debriefing via cellphone in their car or remotely at a later time. Ways to decrease workload or to provide compensation for using personal cars/cellphones to Faculty Advisors are being discussed with the senior leadership.

### **Summer Session (Coursework, Absences)**

Some teacher candidates were interviewed for Teacher on Call positions in week 1 or 2 of their practicum due to teacher shortage. It is the policy of the Teacher Education Program that regular attendance in all classes is essential to success in the program. Faculty Advisors are advised not to provide references until the practicum is finished, and definitely not before the midpoint evaluation. In some cases, district hiring committees are not aware of this issue. A message from the Teacher Education Office will be sent to district human resources regarding this matter. Summer instructors can redirect the absence from class cases to the Teacher Education Office.

The chair acknowledged the work of LLED and EDST to diversify and streamline the summer coursework for teacher candidates. We are aware that there might be concerns with the compressed Summer session. A survey regarding the Summer Session coursework will be conducted.

### **W1 (Back to campus, Cohorts, Admissions)**

There are over 400 students currently admitted into the BEd program for 2021-22. The nature of the level of activity remains uncertain. A possible hybrid BEd program orientation is being planned. .

More details on the return to campus plan such as class schedules and course registration will be released in mid-June. The return to campus decision will be made at the university level and more details need to be confirmed. The Public Health Office orders will serve as the criteria for what September will look like. This matter will be watched closely and we will continue to have discussions. Townhall meetings will be a good place to raise any concerns.

## **5. Update on Seconded Faculty Advisors motion**

The Chair provided an update on the Seconded Faculty Advisors motion which was moved at the last TEAC meeting. It is becoming difficult to attract people with expertise into the faculty advisor position. It was suggested to look at possible involvement of doctoral students in supervision. One issue is that practicum supervision can be a big commitment for doctoral students and their permission to



teach needs to be approved by Graduate Studies. What other faculties with equivalent supervising practica (e.g., School of Nursing, the School of Social Work, and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences) are doing can be investigated. A bigger question to be considered is how we work collectively as a Tier 1 institution for our students.

## **6. Review of Processes for Concerns Update**

The Processes for Concerns document is undergoing alignment with Senate policy. This document will be available for discussion in September.

A clarification on the timeline has been discussed. An appeal of academic standing needs to be submitted within two weeks from the official submission of grades.

## **7. Interim Reports**

The Chair shared with the committee two types of interim reports – one for the practicum and the other for the coursework and sought feedback and counsel around the use of the interim reports. When there is a concern in a course, the instructor will work with the TEO program coordinators. The TEO program coordinators help the instructor to outline the nature of the concern, draft the recommendations, and present the report to the student. The TEO program coordinators can act as someone who is there to support the student, become an intermediary to discuss the concern, and hear from both sides. The teacher candidate will sign off once the report and action items to improve have been discussed. The report is kept in the Teacher Education Office until the student graduates. If the student does not meet the timeline, a failing grade may be assigned or the practicum may be terminated. The interim report has been a great success as it helps teacher candidates to pass the courses/practicum and gives them protection and clarity.

## **8. Future meetings**

This committee usually meets from September to April. The Chair posed the question to the committee on whether to meet from May onwards realizing the member's commitment is past due.

## **9. Your topics**

External review updates will be provided at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: to be scheduled