

MINUTES

School of Education Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2010

12:30-1:30 p.m. | 117

Meeting commenced at 12:30 p.m.

In attendance: Dr. Erin Harrel, Dr. Eileen DeLuca, Professor Joyce Rollins, Professor Elaine Schaeffer, Professor Peggy Van Voorhis, Professor William Dwyer, Dr. Christy Duda, Dr. Brian Botts

I. Faculty shared successes and accomplishments

a. Professor Schaeffer and Dr. DeLuca reported on the *Illuminations* Literary Review reception. Four education majors were published (Charleen Cintron, Deborah Nearon, Danette Russell, Danielle Bishop) and two of them (Charleen and Dannette) read at the reception. Danette's poem, "Ode to Biology" was cleverly crafted to include scientific jargon in a delightful rhyme!

b. Dr. DeLuca shared news about her students' cultural ethnographies. A notable presentation involved an ethnography about Professor Van Voorhis' family and their experiences before, during and after the holocaust. The class was fascinated by the stories the group shared. Dr. DeLuca suggested that their ethnography could somehow tie into ESC's Holocaust Memorial Week.

c. Dr. Botts shared progress on the Collegiate High School. The Collegiate High School was recently awarded a start-up grant and Dr. Botts praised Dr. Harrel for the groundwork she put in place as the founding principal of the high school.

II. Dr. Harrel led a work session where present faculty gave input to the School of Education's Unit Plan.

a. Professor Schaeffer shared two objectives for the Early Childhood Concentration. It was decided that the focus would be on creating a learning community for Early Childhood Concentration students who vision themselves as teaching in the early years (K-3) and/or intend to pursue a Baccalaureate degree in education. The objective would include establishing a cohort of students and providing supports needed to bolster their chances of success.

b. Dr. DeLuca suggested focusing on professional development for faculty regarding current issues in education including Response to Intervention (RtI) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) assessment measures including AYP. She reported that both Dr. Carlos Negron and Dr. Leslie Roth have expressed interest in leading a staff development regarding RtI. Dr. Harrel suggested writing a goal that would include stipends for trainings.

c. Dr. DeLuca suggested that another goal should include providing a remediation/support structure for students who score below "satisfactory" on the School of Education writing assessment, students who struggle with any aspect of the General Knowledge Test (Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Language Skills), and/or English Language Learners or students who speak/write non-standard dialects. Present faculty engaged in discussion about what type of support position could meet the various student needs. Also, present faculty discussed how a Standard English and/or "Writing" thread could be measured across the

baccalaureate courses. Professor Schaeffer suggested that lower division faculty may also need to examine how Standard English and writing skills are being taught and assessed.

d. Professor Rollins suggested that faculty could work together to develop a core set of School of Education goals or skills (e.g. critical thinking, reflective practice, etc.) and then engage in professional development activities to help all professors teach and model the agreed upon goals.

e. Professor Rollins suggested reviewing field experience hours and what the experiences look like at each level. Some items to review: Are the assigned amount of hours appropriate? Are the expected assignments appropriate and manageable in the time frame? Is the associated workload equivalent across courses? Professor Rollins suggested doing an analysis of each course, hours, assignments, etc. to ensure best practice.

e. Dr. Dwyer discussed goals related to technology and materials that may include shared materials with the Collegiate High School. He brought a wish list of materials for consideration as the Secondary and Middle Grades programs are developed.

f. Dr. Harrel took notes on all discussion and suggestions. She will write up the Unit Plan goals and share them with faculty for feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Eileen DeLuca