

September 2011

## University of Northern Iowa Secondary Teacher Education Senate Meeting Minutes, September 15, 2011

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## **Secondary Teacher Education Senate September 15, 2011**

Present: Cherin Lee, Tammy Gregersen, Richard Vanderwall, Becky Hawbaker, Theresa Camilli (alternate, Music), Teri Lasswell, Larry Escalada, Chad Christopher, Benjamin Forsyth, Chris Curran, Elizabeth Hughes, Katherine LaVelle, Barb Bakker, Dianna Briggs, Melissa Heston.

Absent: Doug Hotek, Andrew McCormick

Not yet selected: teacher practioner and undergraduate student

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Lee welcomed the inaugural members of the new Secondary Teacher Education Senate and invited everyone to introduce himself/herself.

### II. Governance/Organizational Structure

Lee distributed and walked through our new Dual Governance models. She reminded the group of the history behind and rationale for the changes in the model. She reported that the Teacher Education webpage is being updated and that all approved minutes from our meetings will appear on the website.

### III. Terms of Service

Lee stated that the term of service is three years, but also that the terms should be staggered so that only 1/3 of the terms expire each year. She asked members for their preferences about whether they will initially serve a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year term. She also asked members to identify an alternate.

### IV. Teacher Education Program Improvement Advisory Board

The Secondary Senate must appoint two members to the Program Improvement Advisory Board, which will meet twice a year. Cherin will send out a call for nominations on the TEF listserv and we will make our appointments at our next meeting. She also asked for suggestions for the teacher and administrator representatives.

### V. Standing Committees

In the new governance model, there are five joint standing committees, and the Secondary Senate must appoint members to each of them. There was a discussion about the charge and purpose of the committees. Lee and Heston cautioned that the bylaws and joint committee structure may need to be adapted or revised after we have tried them out for a semester or two. Escalada suggested that the Senate appoint both members and alternates as its representatives. All of the committees need to begin meeting at least monthly. Lee asked for members to send nominations for the committees to her in the next week. Vanderwall volunteered to serve as the Secondary Senate Representative to the Executive Council and was approved by acclamation. Gregersen volunteered as his alternate.

#### VI. Teacher Education Bylaws

The previous Council on Teacher Education gave preliminary approval to the new Teacher Education Bylaws at its last meeting, but Lee is certain that they need one more thorough revision and would like the two Senates to formally adopt the bylaws in October. She requested that Senate members carefully read the Bylaws prior to the October meeting, and send corrections/changes to her.

#### VII. Transferring in Level I Field Experiences from Community College

Heston reported that some students are transferring in a credit for our Level 1 field experience that was completed as a high school cadet teaching experience. Hawbaker added that she is aware of several secondary majors whose Level 1 experience was a high school cadet teaching experience in an elementary classroom. Vanderwall noted that this is a documentation issue related to licensure as we have no records on or control over such experiences. Heston asked senators to reflect on this issue for future discussion.

#### VIII. DCI/SING checks

In the past, UNI directed students to get a DCI background check at Level 1 but accountability for completion and follow up on hits was limited until Level 2, when Price Lab teachers require the DCI before the start of the experience. Beginning this semester, UNI is requiring the SING background check, first required only for the early childhood majors, for ALL teaching majors prior to their Level 1 field experience. Heston runs the checks herself and a clearance certificate will eventually appear on UNITED. However, UNI does not have a policy about how to handle any hits that are returned on the check (e.g., public intoxication, OWI, child abuse). Hawbaker reported that the policy at Level 2 is that students with hits must meet with the Director of Price Laboratory School to discuss their situation and to request special permission to complete the experience. Such requests have always been granted in the past. When she used a similar approach for a possible placement at Cedar Falls High School, the principal denied the request and told her that the Cedar Falls district uses background checks in the hiring process to screen out applicants from the interview pool. Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at about 5:00.

Respectfully submitted

Becky Hawbaker