

MINUTES

Teacher Education Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 27, 2019

In Attendance: Christiné Misch, Paula Mann, Tina Ginglo, Parker Robinson, Carole Richardson, Callie Mady, Carla Webster

Regrets: Fran Couchie, Rick Belisle, Greg Rickwood

Absent: Jackie Young, Glen Sharpe

1. Welcome and Introductions

Carole welcomed the Committee and a roundtable introduction ensued.

2. Approval of Agenda

No changes to the agenda were noted.

3. Approval of Minutes

No changes to the minutes were noted.

4. Dean's Report – Dr. Carole Richardson

- Application numbers are the highest we've seen since launching the two-year program: 984 applications, 884 offers, 17 applications pending, 39 applications missing documents, and 103 intending to continue from concurrent stream. To date, we've had 149 acceptances. The deadline is March 8th, but we will leave it open until we get the numbers we want. We are supposed to graduate approximately 496 per year. It's very difficult to predict, but we will be very happy with an intake of 300 this year.
- From February 19-21 faculty and staff participated in our annual call campaign, which was helpful in turning offers into acceptances.
- This Saturday we are holding an Education Expo for those who have received offers. We are expecting approximately 80 students. With their supporters, there will be 300 people in attendance.
- We've put forward a motion to make classroom management a required course as opposed to an elective course.

- Collective bargaining is underway and we anticipate that it will go well.
- We are monitoring Bill 48 with regard to potential math testing for teacher candidates.
- We are looking to make some changes to the concurrent program. We want the required education related courses offered in the undergraduate years to be taught by education professors. We'd also like to add more required education courses in the first four years of the six-year program.
- We are looking at revamping the MEd program a little bit. We are anticipating that applications for the MEd program will go up as more positions open up for teachers.

5. Associate Dean's Report – Dr. Callie Mady

- Some teacher candidates are currently completing their international/domestic community leadership experience: 18 in Costa Rica, 15 in Kenya, 18 in France and 6 in Trois Pistoles, Quebec. All groups are accompanied by faculty facilitators from the Schulich School of Education.
- We requested feedback from 500 associate teachers on a variety of topics. 138 responded. In general, they were satisfied with our teacher candidates' ability to plan lessons, but indicated that our teacher candidates' ability to plan a unit was somewhat lacking. It was noted that more focus is needed on assessment and evaluation. Overall, associate teachers are appreciative of teacher candidates and the support Nipissing provides to them.
- In an effort to address associate teacher feedback, the Practicum Committee has reviewed the number of lesson plans teacher candidates are required to complete and we now require a minimum of three. The Committee is also reviewing the current lesson plan template.
- In the fall, we connected with the local school boards. Some provided presentations which were well received by teacher candidates. We also offered local boards a PD menu of faculty sessions that could be provided to them.
- Thanks to OTF, teacher candidates will receive an official pin at convocation. Teacher candidates have expressed interest in this for a number of years and are very excited that it is finally going to happen.

6. TELC Report – Parker Robinson

- After many years of discussion, we are pleased to get the pinning underway. This is a credit to the enthusiasm of the student reps this year. Thanks to all those who were involved in making the decision.
- TELC has met three times this year and hopes to meet once more before the end of the year.
- A representative presented the Boundaries workshop to teacher candidates during professional week. This is important information to present early on in their program.
- OTF hosted the TELC symposium in mid-February. Rick and Parker both attended. It was a good event. Linda Darlington gave a fantastic keynote address. A portrait of all faculties was presented and can be found on the OTF website. If finances allow, a faculty or student rep would be welcomed next year.
- TELC continues to support student events in hopes of creating relationships with teacher candidates early on. The federations will be a large part of their professional life, so it's an important relationship to foster.

- OTF and affiliates are concerned about teacher candidates getting hired on supply lists before they are qualified and we continue to make them aware that doing so could be risky.
- All contracts end August 1st and bargaining is already ramping up. We're unsure how well it's going to go. We're concerned, but prepared. We're hoping not to see job action, as we know it impacts teacher candidates.
- Application numbers for BEd programs are up across the province, except for one faculty.

7. Ministry of Education Report – Tina Ginglo (via telephone) & Christiné Misch

- Tina provided an overview of the OCT Transition to Teaching Report, noting the difference in employment rates between those in the Sudbury/North Bay region, versus the rest of Ontario. This is the first time the data has been gathered this way. Carole indicated that she is not surprised by the numbers because although we are a large geographic area, we are relatively small in terms of number of schools. Nipissing and Laurentian have graduated a large number of students and many who come from southern Ontario choose to stay here.
- Building Futures has been renamed - Professional Development for Teacher Candidates. As of January 2019, it is being offered in a blended format, as a cost savings measure. Nipissing wasn't able to participate in the Voices of Experience due to scheduling issues, but has provided all students with information for the virtual resources. Callie indicated that we didn't have the flexibility to change the date of the session. Tina said that only 6/13 faculties were able to take advantage of the blended program this year because it didn't happen until January. They will be going back to the table to determine how best to provide PD to teacher candidates in the future.
- NTIP Learning Space is a great resource for teacher candidates and associate teachers. Funding for NTIP has been cut somewhat, but has been expanded to include teachers in their first years, as well as mentors to teacher candidates.
- Bill 48 process is moving very quickly. Once all stakeholder submissions are reviewed, it will go to third reading. This will likely happen in April or May. Lots of conversations are taking place but no decisions have been made yet. Carole noted that it was suggested that it didn't necessarily have to be one standard test for all and asked if that has been decided. Tina stated that no decision has been made on that yet.
- Christiné indicated that she is responsible for approving temporary letters of approval and letters of permission and has noticed a high number of requests for Native language, Native studies, French, senior sciences and maths.
- The Premier and Minister of Education have announced that they will consult with the public on the following seven topics: improving Ontario students' performance in "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), preparing students with job skills, including skilled trades or fields such as coding, graduating students with life skills like financial literacy, providing age-appropriate Health and Physical Education curriculum that includes subjects like mental health, sex-education, and legalization of cannabis, improving standardized testing, banning cellphone use in the classroom, developing a Parents' Bill of Rights.
- We are aware of the Ontario Autism program that has been introduced. At this point we have not heard about changes within the boards for autism programs, but recognize that there may be future

impact. Paula indicated that if the time comes, they will look to minimize the impact these changes have at the board level.

8. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be determined next year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.