MINUTES

Teacher Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 23, 2016

In Attendance: Christiné Misch, Kathy Broad, Mike Parr, Ron Phillips, Michelle Passmore, Chris Chabot, Rick Belisle, Carole Richardson, Barb Olmsted, Jeff Scott, Todd Horton, Lorraine Frost, Carla Webster

Regrets: Demetra Saldaris, Jackie Young, Paula Mann

1. Welcome and Introductions

Carole welcomed the Committee and a roundtable introduction ensued.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Carole Richardson: That the Agenda be approved with no formal motion.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Carole Richardson: That the Minutes of January 21, 2015 be approved with no formal motion.
CARRIED

4. Dean's Report – Dr. Carole Richardson

The first year of the enhanced program has been unique and has moved along well since the end of the job action. Intake was slightly over 200 and we are now sitting at about 189 with most of the withdrawals occurring prior to September.

Carole provided a brief review of the structure of the program, including practicum. She reported that she has received positive feedback regarding the cross-divisional courses.

Offers for the 2016-17 academic year will go out via email at 9:00 a.m. on March 1st, which is the same for all other institutions in Ontario, other than Queen's University. Applications are slightly down this year at 636, but Carole is optimistic about uptake. The Schulich School of Education launched a very successful and positive faculty call campaign and all eligible applicants were contacted last week.

Consideration is being given to surveying students and faculty prior to the end of the year in an effort to gather feedback that can be used when reviewing the program.

Staff has been working hard for six months to complete the interim OCT accreditation, which is due on March 1st. Next year, the Schulich School of Education is up for full accreditation (IQAP and OCT).

Nipissing University will be hiring a Professor/Chair of Indigenous Education. The position will be sponsored by the Schulich School of Education, but will be shared by all three faculties depending on need. The first meeting of the hiring committee is Friday, February 26th.

5. Associate Dean's Report – Dr. Barbara Olmsted

Barb provided an overview of the international practicum. North Bay Campus - 16 concurrent education students will be leaving for Ecuador on Saturday, February 27th. Mike Parr and Jeff Scott are the Faculty Facilitators for this trip. Brantford Campus - 42 students will travel with three Faculty Facilitators to Italy in April, and 23 students will travel with two Faculty Facilitators to Ecuador (Amazon) in May. Teacher candidates find these experiences life-changing and their experience is enhanced by having the support of faculty on location.

The Associate Teacher support day that was held in conjunction with the Near North D.S.B. and Nipissing Parry-Sound D.S.B. last spring was a success. We have conducted research with associate teachers across Ontario and will continue to look for new and innovative ways to better support them.

The Practicum Committee is working diligently to finalize the new evaluations for Practicum II. We are looking closely at provincial standards. Faculty has been engaged in this work. By the end of the two-year program, teacher candidates will have received a minimum of four practicum reports from associate teachers and a minimum of one practicum report from a faculty advisor.

6. TELC Report – Chris Chabot

OTF has noticed a downward trend in applications across Ontario this year. Tech is a major concern with Queen's University being the only institution to offer a non-diploma program. New TED tables will be set up to discuss areas of concern.

OTF's position on Police Vulnerable Sector Checks is that they should be completed as a function of admission and should be sufficient to get teacher candidates hired. After become employed with a school board, an annual declaration should be sufficient. Carole noted that OTF has been very supportive of the deans on this topic.

AQ subsidies for math and kindergarten parts 1 & 2 or specialist are being offered.

TELC discussed trying to streamline the presentations offered by ETFO, OSSTF, OECTA and OTF. The local representatives are aware of the repetition, but are also mindful that each affiliate is protective of their own information and presentation. Information provided must be maximized, while time is minimized.

The last presentation was only attended by 10 teacher candidates. Carole pointed out that there may be a misconception that we have more time now that the program is two years in length. In reality, all of the extra time has been filled with courses and practicum. Discussion ensued.

7. Ministry of Education Report – Mary Broad (via teleconference)

No formal report at this time.

Kathy indicated that Mentoring for All funding is available to all school boards in Ontario this year. Some school boards have indicated an interest in working with associate teachers. The MOE will continue to notify faculties of these opportunities. Carole noted that we have been in contact with our local school boards about this funding. Discussion ensued.

Some fabulous projects from all around the province were showcased at the Teacher Learning and Leadership Conference. Mary will send information about the work that was done in North Bay and surrounding areas.

8. Other Business

Carole opened the floor for further discussion or questions.

Lorraine reported that we anticipate having our first PhD graduates this year, which is very exciting for Nipissing University.

Mike asked what the mandate of TEAC is. Carole indicated that TEAC was legislated many years ago as part of the Education Act. Since then, it has transformed into a back and forth flow of communication with our stakeholders.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be determined at a later date.

Meeting adjourned.