



Mississippi
College

Department of Teacher Education and Leadership
Professional Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 (3:30p.m.) via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Present: Beth Barlow, Carol Barnes, Stephanie Busbea, Stephanie Carmicle, McKenzie Copeland, Desean Dyson, Meranda Gainey, Wendy Grace Jan Hankins, Stephanie Henderson, Sydney Margaret Holbert, Katherine Horlock, Cindy Melton, Dr. T. Nalls, Rachel Peeples, Kelli Pope, Jennifer Stafford, Shirley Tipton, Christian Trejo, Alexis Walker, Natalie Weaver

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by TEL Department Chair, Jennifer Stafford. A motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting was made by Shirley Tipton and seconded by Carol Barnes. **Motion carried.** A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Dr. Nalls and seconded by Shirley Tipton. **Motion carried.** Dr. Stafford opened with a poem by Kathleen Higgins.

Dr. Jennifer Stafford reviewed University updates with the committee. The Leland Speed Library is offering a full-tuition scholarship to an incoming freshman. The next SACSCOC visit will be in March 2023 and focus largely on advising from all departments. Outcomes will be reported in the Spring.

Dr. Sydney M Holbert kicked off the department updates. There are currently 14 students in the field completing their student teaching semester. There will be 31 in the Spring.

Dr. Katherine Horlock provided updates for Initial Program Revisions. There are several curriculum proposals regarding literacy coursework for the K-6 program. These changes are to be in compliance with the Department of Education. A new Elementary Education K-6 is being offered for teachers with a 5-year standard license and at least 3 years of teaching experience. A 15-credit program and passing score on the Foundations of Reading test is required for this endorsement.

Dr. Rachel Peeples provided an update regarding Tk20. This program will be used until the end of the school year and possibly longer for students who already have an account. Anthology will likely replace Tk20 after this school year.

Dr. Beth Barlow provided updates for the Biology Ed program. A curriculum change is underway and approval is anticipated for December. There will be 2 new courses available to Biology Education majors, Cell and Molecular Biology + lab, and Bio Statistics.

D. Cindy Melton gave an update for the Education Department and invited all committee members to the School of Education Reception being held in Alumni Hall, 3rd Floor-Robbie Cross Dining Room on Friday, October 28th at 6p.m. Food will be ready to serve at 5:45 p.m.

Dr. Jennifer Stafford provided updates regarding accreditation. MC gained CAEP approval in Fall 2021 and the next visit will be Fall 2027. MDE Midcycle Review will be in January 2024. Stay tuned for data collection requests from Dr. Stafford.

Enrollment for education programs is down not only at MC but all across the nation, according to the National Education Association Data. Our current focus is on completion of the Education programs. Dr. Stafford asked committee members for input regarding this decrease in the last 50 years.

Some responses given were:

- There is less parental support for this career path.
- Education is not a high paying career.
- There is not enough advocacy within the field.
- Kinesiology Education majors who want to coach may be given alternate conflicting advice from seasoned coaches.
- New teachers need more support to offset the high turnover rate.
- Teaching is largely a female profession and in the last 30 years, more jobs have become available to females.

Dr. Stafford asked committee members for their input on the following discussion topics:

- What unique opportunities would you suggest to help with the shortfall of education majors entering college and the classroom?
- How can we better prepare our diverse candidates for a diverse educational arena?

Some responses given were:

- Dr. Katherine Horlock provided updates regarding efforts to increase enrollment and engagement. We have created several committees to come up with ideas and will be reaching out to members for their input. The Department is becoming more involved with our current students by having "Point of Contact" and hosting fun events throughout the school year. In an effort to engage with all students and the community, we have vamped up our social media presence with the help of faculty, staff and current students.
- Desean Dyson explained that the Online Instruction and Design program is helping current teachers be more comfortable with the growing technology usage brought on by COVID. Even after schools have returned to normal, strategies are continuing to change and some teachers are uncomfortable with technology.
- All districts could benefit from offering new teachers an extensive support system during their first few years in the classroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.