

College of Education Meeting  
November 21, 2003

Minutes

Dr. Humberto Gonzalez, Dean, called the meeting to order. All members were present at the meeting.

Dr. Gonzalez opened the meeting by presenting an overview of projects currently underway in the College. First, the ACP proposal has been submitted to SBEC. There was a meeting on Thursday, November 20, with principals from area schools. He and the ACP committee will meet with superintendents from partner schools on Monday, November 24. He noted that all twelve semester hours included in the program can be applied toward a Master's degree. After the meeting with the superintendents, Dr. Gonzalez will share the proposal with the College.

✓ Dr. Gonzalez informed the faculty of the FIPSE grant preproposal that has been submitted. It would provide funding in the amount of \$600,000 for three years. The project will provide high school students with college-level coursework that can be applied to their college degree and count for high school graduation. The project is based on the Early High School concept and would allow students participating in the program to become certified to teach EC-4 by the middle of their senior year. We should hear very soon if the preproposal is being considered for funding.

Dr. Gonzalez reported on a meeting Thursday evening with LISD employees at Martin High School regarding graduate study in the College of Education. Many people signed and picked up applications. It appears that we will be able to have cohorts in all graduate degree areas. The next step is to meet with UISD.

✓ The faculty was informed that the Texas A&M system wants all doctoral degrees to begin as collaborative degrees. There is a process by which a collaborative degree can eventually move to different levels of collaboration until it becomes an independent degree. Presently, the A&M system has expressed an interest in collaborative with TAMU to develop Ph.D. degrees in Educational Leadership and Special Education. In this case the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction will move to the next level of collaboration, thus moving toward becoming an independent degree offering.

#### Graduate Admissions

Dr. Lira reported the proposal of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction regarding requiring the GRE for admission to graduate study. The recommendation is to allow students to take twelve semester hours toward the degree before having to satisfy the GRE requirement. Students can be monitored through the SIS system hold screen 148.

Dr. Alaniz reported that the Department of Special Populations was recommending that students be allowed to take six semester hours of graduate coursework toward the masters degree. However, he stated that, in light of the report made by Dr. Lira regarding how to track students, that allowing students to complete twelve semester hours is preferable. The advantage of allowing twelve semester hours is that it coincides with Admission Office standards.

Professional Programs works with twelve hours for some students needing conditional admission. The College Curriculum Committee recommended that the entire college adopt the twelve hours limit.

Dr. Brown moved to adopt the twelve-hour limit without the GRE. Mr. Romo seconded the motion. Dr. Ivy asked what purpose is served by requiring the GRE. Dr. Gonzalez responded that the GRE is a predictor of how students will perform on the TExES. The purpose is to help faculty work effectively with students, not to deny them admission to graduate study.

Dr. Lozano commented that we should not use the GRE. Dr. Greybeck mentioned that the GRE is part of university requirements for graduate study. Discussion continued. The point was made that the process of taking the GRE shows commitment on the part of students to graduate study. Dr. Gonzalez stated that the GRE is part of admission requirements to graduate studies at most universities. Ms. Linn stated that experience taking the GRE for admission to the Master's program helps when going on to the doctoral level.

Dr. Brown called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Service Component for Entry to Graduate Programs

Only Professional Programs requires the three years of teacher prior to admission for the Principalship program. Superintendents want us to eliminate this requirement. The general feeling is to change the requirement. Dr. Alaniz moved, and Dr. Brown seconded the motion to eliminate the three years teaching for entry into the program. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Full Loads

Normally, a full load for graduate study is six semester hours if the student is working. The full-time load is nine hours if students are not working. Mrs. Lunce's position is that limiting students to six semester hours affects their financial aid eligibility.

Discussion ensued. A question was raised about whether the students in cohorts would be limited to six semester hours so they would all stay together. Dr. Brown commented that the catalog states a full-time load to be nine semester hours, so limiting students to six semester hours does affect their financial aid.

It was agreed to table this issue until we get clarification on the financial aid eligibility issue.

Dr. Brown suggested that we continue with the six hour limit until we change the policy, so that the rule will be applied consistently to all students. Dr. Gonzalez stated that we will continue with the six hour limit for those who are working, for the spring semester.

Dr. Pirtle asked how this would affect students in their last semester who need nine semester to complete their degree. Not allowing them to take the nine semester hours would delay their graduation, so we need to let them take the nine semester hours. Dr. Gonzalez stated that the catalog currently includes this exception.

Dr. Brown asked what procedure is to be followed to get a waiver for students to take nine semester hours. Dr. Gonzalez answered that there is a form that comes through the Department Chair, and is signed by the Dean and the Provost. He asked that faculty

complete waiver forms for all students not working and who are taking nine semester hours, to ensure that documentation is available.

Dr. Shepherd moved to table this issue, and Dr. Salinas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Project Rio

Dr. Alaniz reported that there are 41 students currently in Project Rio and four are graduating. He announced an award of \$46,000 to supplement the grant. This money will provide students with additional assistance, including child care.

Dr. Alaniz introduced Mrs. Diana Rodriguez, ACP Coordinator, and informed the faculty that her office is KL 321.

Dr. Alaniz announced that there is increasing interest in the graduate scholarships for Bilingual Education. Currently, about seven students have scholarships. There are additional applicants being considered.

He added that we are expecting the ACP proposal to be approved in January.

#### B.S. Degree in Special Education

Dr. Shepherd presented proposed changes to the degree. He stated that the changes being proposed are to strengthen the degree to better prepare students to pass the TExES.

Dr. Pirtle asked if the students will still get the Introduction to Psychology course. Dr. Shepherd stated that the course is still in the degree.

Dr. Vargas suggested having EDCI 3304 or EDCI 3305, instead of EDCI 3304, since it is an all-level certificate. Dr. Anderson stated that the all-level degrees need some Early Childhood preparation, which is in EDCI 3304. Dr. Lozano agreed.

Dr. Shepherd commented that most students will take EDCI 3304.

Dr. Alaniz stated that exceptions can be done on an individual basis to substitute EDCI 3305 for EDCI 3304. It was suggested that the degree be left as presented.

Dr. Ivy moved to approve the Special Education degree as presented with the one correction of course number. Dr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the degree as presented.

Dr. Lira distributed a handout of recommended changes in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. He reviewed the recommendations presented by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction Curriculum Committee. After reviewing the recommendations, a motion was made by Dr. Brown to approve the changes presented by Dr. Lira. Dr. McCreight seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The B.S. in Fitness and Sport, Non-Certification degree was presented with proposed additional minors in Bilingual Education, Early Childhood Education, Special Education, and Reading. The purpose of adding these minors is to increase employability of students graduating with this degree.

Dr. Lozano stated that EDEC 2328 has been phased out of the degree and needs to be deleted from the catalog. Dr. McGee moved that these minors be approved for the degree. Dr. Shepherd seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Coronado reviewed proposed catalog changes presented in a handout. Dr. Lozano stated that Block III should be completed in the last long semester. The faculty commented on the thoroughness of the catalog review done by Mrs. Coronado.

Dr. Vargas moved that the recommended changes be approved and Dr. Brown seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued. Dr. Lozano expressed her opinion that students should not be allowed to take Blocks I and II together. It was stated that this would not occur now since Block I now included six semester hours of coursework.

The faculty voted to approve the recommended changes, with the one nay vote by Dr. Lozano.

Mr. Romo presented a proposed change to the course description to EDFS 2316 which would not restrict the course to Fitness and Sport majors. Dr. McCreight moved to approve the changed course description and Dr. Railsback seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gonzalez stated that the Department of Professional Programs would be meeting on Monday, November 24, to review the catalog for needed changes.

#### Information Items

The Hooding Ceremony will take place on December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. Faculty are to be expected to attend in regalia. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony. Dr. Lozano suggested that a color guard present the flag. It was agreed to include the color guard. A tentative bulletin for the Hooding Ceremony was distributed. Faculty were asked to check it and offer corrections.

The Pinning Ceremony will be February 26, 2004, at noon. Mrs. Thelma Solis showed faculty a possible design for the pin. Faculty were asked to send suggestions to Mrs. Solis.

Progress on obtaining a Kappa Delta Pi national charter was reported by Dr. Sakta. The application form is being completed. The target date for the first induction ceremony is May 14, 2004. Dr. Sakta announced that, since TAMIU had a KDP previously, the fee required for membership would be reduced from \$400.00 to \$200.00. Dr. Sakta also announced that Student Activities has start-up money available for honor societies. She stated that she would contact Student Activities to apply for this money. Dr. Brown mentioned that there is still an account in Laredo National Bank in the amount of \$500.00 under the Rainbow Education Club. These funds need to be transferred to another account so they can be used.

Dr. Gonzalez announced that this is the last year for Regents' Initiative. There will be a one-year extension. A new initiative, CREATE, will replace Regent's Initiative. It is a three-system project (UT system, A&M system, and Texas State system). This project will provide \$3 million dollars over a three-year period. The two main projects supported under CREATE will be research and redefining teacher preparation and the role of Colleges of Education. The plan is for 5 – 6 research topics to be identified. Different institutions would then work on different topics. The headquarters for CREATE is the Woodlands. The same people who have headed Regents' Initiative will head CREATE.

The Lighthouse Initiative is being worked on by Education Administration. They are looking at how to find funding for full-time internships.

Dr. Pirtle asked about the courses that would be included for graduate credit under the ACP program. Dr. Alaniz explained that we have developed only one certification

area for purposes of the proposal, which is Early Childhood – Grade 4 Bilingual Education. We have only the courses proposed for this certification area at this time.

A motion was made to adjourn by Dr. Greybeck and seconded by Dr. Ivy. Faculty unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy G. Sakta".

Cathy G. Sakta