

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL/JOINT COUNCIL OF DEANS
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12-13, 2006

*Providence Forum Room
McLaughlin Center
University of Great Falls
Great Falls, MT*

CALL TO ORDER

CSPAC Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting to order on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 8:30 A.M. CSPAC council members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Charla Bunker, Teacher, Great Falls; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Kim Warrick, Reading Specialist, Bozeman; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of Education, MSU-Billings. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC and Ms. Megan Kerzman, CSPAC Administrative Assistant. The following people signed the meeting roster: Mike Miller, UM Western; Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Bonnie Graham, MSU-Billings; Erik Burke, MEA-MFT; Larry Baker, MSU; Barbara Vail, Rocky Mountain College; Jim Longin, MSU Northern; Lynette Zuroff, Carroll College; Audrey Zuroff, citizen; Cindy O'Dell, Salish Kootenai College; Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Karl Ulrich, UM Western; Denise Juneau, OPI; and Linda Peterson, OPI.

Motion: Ms. Tonia Bloom moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson. Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Ms. Tonia Bloom voted to approve the July 6th CSPAC meeting minutes. Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

The new CSPAC members, Miss Judie Woodhouse and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, were introduced to the Council and gave background information on themselves. Mr. Peter Donovan provided a review of CSPAC correspondence, which included a letter from Ms. Alyson Mike thanking CSPAC for their help with the Montana Educator Forum, an article that Ms. Charla Bunker wrote, and a request for a copy of a pamphlet of ethical questions for new teachers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Douglas Reisig

The Council began a discussion on the current committees and appointments to said committees. The possibility of abolishing all the current standing committees and making the Council a committee of the whole was discussed; this option would include the ability to form small committees as the need arises, such as for the Chapter 57 review. There was also a discussion concerning Native American certification and Indian Education for All. Possible committee assignments are as follows:

Pre-Professional Preparation and Continuing Development:
Professional development, continuing education, mentoring, teacher testing, ESEA (NCLB, HQT), outcome assessment, PEPPS (chapter 58), Title II, online degrees and coursework, NCATE.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee:
Chapter 57, paraprofessionals.

Montana Commission on Teaching:
Mentoring, teacher testing.

The Council decided to hold off on making a decision concerning committees until a later time. If the committees change, the bylaws need to change as well. The Council decided to read through the Board of Public Education Strategic Plan before setting goals and committee structure.

As preparation for the upcoming Legislative session, the Council decided to make a decision to support OPI's proposal to expand their existing database.

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved that CSPAC supports the proposition to expand the K-12 educator data systems to include data on school staffing, including teacher qualifications, experience, professional development, teacher mobility, personnel assignments, employment status, and salary and benefit information. Ms. Tonia Bloom seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Council also read through the proposed new rule outlining standards for instructors of Braille. The Council decided to recommend for approval the proposed rule.

Motion: Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson moved that the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council recommends the approval of the proposed new rule: Assignment of Persons Providing Instruction to Braille Students. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

** On Friday, October 13, 2006, the Council continued its discussion on the committee structure of CSPAC. After much in-depth discussion and several proposals, the decision was made to keep the current three committees and change the name of one of the committees.

Motion: Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh moved to continue the three existing committee structure delineated with the exception of dropping "Pre" from Professional and adding "Continuing Education" (drop the term Development Committee). Ms. Judie Woodhouse seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Committee assignments are as follows: Licensure and Endorsement Committee – Ms. Kim Warrick, Chair, and Ms. Charla Bunker; Professional Development and Continuing Education – Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Chair, and Ms. Tonia Bloom; Montana Commission on Teaching – Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Chair, and Ms. Judie Woodhouse; and Executive Committee – Dr. Douglas Reisig, Chair, and Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Vice-chair.

The Council also discussed the Board of Public Education's Strategic Planning document. There was discussion on CSPAC's involvement in BPE's plan: tie-ins with BPE goals; possible research projects; possibly undertake a study into what evidence the organization would accept as to what makes a successful field experience; the value of alternative certification plus the need for it; what can CSPAC do

to help children who are struggling with achievement gap issues. A request was made for Chris Lohse, OPI, to present at the January meeting concerning the American Indian achievement gap. Ideas were also developed concerning criteria for a successful field experience: ask SAM, MEA-MFT, MTSBA, etc. what they think acceptable evidence would be; a couple of master teachers from Helena area to present on what they look for in student teachers and field experience.

ITEM 2 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Pete Donovan

Mr. Peter Donovan gave the Council a brief overview of his meetings attended, focusing on the Governor's Awards for Excellence. He also spoke to the Council about the upcoming NASDTEC Annual Conference and handed out a biography of one of the keynote speakers, Neil Howe.

ITEM 3 GOAL SETTING

The Council discussed possible goals for the upcoming year, focusing on developing clear and concise goals that are attainable.

1. Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of approved teacher educator programs in Montana.
2. Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the areas of precertification training and educational requirements and in certification renewal requirements and procedures.
3. Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teachers' certificates and the appeals process.
4. Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the feasibility of establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct.
5. Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of alternative and/or nontraditional teacher preparation opportunities.

Motion: Ms. Charla Bunker moved to adopt the five goals for the focus of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council for the 2006-2007 school year. Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

ITEM 4 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE – Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson

Ms. Smith-Burreson updated the Council on the NCTAF Partner's Symposium she and Mr. Donovan attended in July, focusing on a presentation they went to that discussed differences in teaching styles by culture. The question was brought up about how the Council can disseminate information brought before the Council to the general public; the possibility of putting things online was discussed. Ms. Smith-Burreson also spoke about the State Mentoring Conference and the Montana Educator Forum; she thought the "connecting" theme of the Forum was great and she enjoyed sharing with colleagues. Dr. Reisig presented a monologue concerning the importance of mentoring.

BREAK FOR LUNCH at 12:00 noon.

RECONVENED at 1:15 P.M.

MEETING TURNED OVER TO DEAN BARBARA VAIL, ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Separate agenda for joint meeting. Item numbering starts over.

ITEM 1 CSPAC UPDATE – Dr. Douglas Reisig

Dr. Reisig gave the Council of Deans an update on the work of CSPAC since the groups last met jointly. This update included: Chapter 57, Chapter 58 (nearly done), Braille instructor certification, multi-tiered licensure discussion, and two research reports (Special Education preparation analysis and e-learning consortium study). Mr. Donovan handed out request for proposal forms to the Deans.

ITEM 2 COUNCIL OF DEANS UPDATE – Dr. Barb Vail

Dean Vail gave her thanks to CSPAC for bringing the Council of Deans and the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council together. Dean Vail read the Montana Council of Deans of Education mission statement. The Deans worked on: the “Highly Qualified Teacher” issue for NCLB; PEPPS; NCATE and accreditation issues.

ITEM 3 INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL - Ms. Denise Juneau, OPI

Ms. Denise Juneau, Director of Indian Education at OPI, gave the Councils an update on Indian Education for All. She gave an overview of the two parts of the education issue they have been working on: 1) trying to infuse and integrate curriculum with content that concerns Native American information, and 2) using educational data to try to close the achievement gap and retain students in the education system. Ms. Juneau briefly reviewed the Legislation and the lawsuit; Ready-to-Go grants, which are money to schools that are helping develop curriculum for Indian Education for All; curriculum that has been developed, including DVDs, tours, grade level expectations, languages and literature lessons, science lessons, social studies lessons, and resources; Essential Understandings, which were developed by the elders of the tribes and are deemed the necessary things to learn; and lists of approved literature and resources.

Ms. Juneau also spoke about the current restructuring of 33 schools in Montana and some of the steps OPI is taking to improve those schools, most of which are on reservations. She touched briefly on the Call to Greatness forum held recently. Ms. Juneau also explained that each school library will get a packet of materials that the school can utilize as much as it wants (make copies, distribute, etc.). She explained some of the campaigns OPI has started to increase public education and awareness of Indian Education for All and the need to close the achievement gap. Ms. Juneau answered several questions from Deans and audience members. She stressed OPI’s desire that people try out the materials and the curriculum currently available and let OPI know how it can be improved; she also stressed the role that tribes, tribal councils, and parents will have in closing the achievement gap.

ITEM 4 PEPPS UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI

Dr. Linda Peterson highlighted some of the main changes in this document, including: changing the standards to what programs shall offer, to what a successful candidate will be able to do at the completion of a program; finding similar sentence structure for each subject area; integrate Indian Education for All across all standards; integrate use of current and emerging technology; incorporate NCATE language; streamline standards; and reducing duplication of standards. Dr. Peterson briefly touched on some of the main rule areas, including the specific teaching areas: mathematics, science, language arts, etc. She also explained that the rules on School Counseling will be moved to the 700s because it is an advanced program (graduate level).

ITEM 5 HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER UPDATE - Dr. Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI

Dr. Peterson presented the document “Frequently Asked Questions” concerning Montana’s definition of “Highly Qualified Teacher”. She explained that recommendation for licensure is still up to the higher education programs, but that hopefully this document will help students and faculty determine where they fit currently and where they need to be. She answered many clarifying questions asked by the Deans and CSPAC members.

ITEM 6 PRAXIS TEST REVIEW - Dr. Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI

Dr. Peterson briefly explained the Praxis test review process and the panelists OPI is looking for to review the test. She provided a handout describing the “Basic Approach to Standard Setting for Praxis Series™ Tests”. Dr. Peterson also provided data on Praxis test takers from 2004-2005.

ITEM 7 NCATE/STATE REVIEW TRAINING - Dr. Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI

Dr. Peterson stated that the next NCATE Review training would be held April 2 and 3, 2007.

ITEM 8 OPI UPDATE - Dr. Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI

Dr. Peterson spoke about the upcoming hearing for the Science standards and the work OPI is currently doing on Dual Enrollment. She also mentioned a Distance Learning meeting that will be held on November 1, 2006.

JOINT MEETING ADJOURNED, CSPAC MEETING RECESSED

CSPAC MEETING RECONVENED FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006 AT 8:35 A.M.

ITEM 5 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE – Ms. Kim Warrick

Ms. Kim Warrick gave the Council an update on the preliminary work currently being done on Chapter 57. Ms. Elizabeth Keller developed a matrix in which changes can be made as well as justifications for the suggested changes. Areas that need more in-depth work are being marked. Possible participants for the larger committee are being discussed.

ITEM 6 PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Ms. Charla Bunker

Ms. Charla Bunker stated that Dr. Linda Peterson gave the update on Thursday, October 12, 2006, with the PEPPS, Highly Qualified Teacher, Praxis Test, NCATE, and OPI updates.

ITEM 7 PRESENTATION – Dr. Linda Christensen and Dr. Ken Miller – MSU-Billings

Drs. Linda Christensen and Ken Miller, from MSU-Billings, presented the preliminary results of the CSPAC-funded Higher Education Consortium study. Drs. Christensen and Miller surveyed general education teachers who were in their first four years of teaching about their preparedness for special needs/special education students in their classrooms. The results were displayed in a couple different ways (bar graphs, pie charts) and some of the results were compared to national averages. The goal of the survey was to find out how teacher preparation programs could improve special education preparedness for general education teachers. The two most-recommended were learning more about accommodations for special needs students and having more time spent in practicum experiences.

ITEM 8 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

Mr. Donovan spoke briefly about the Western States Certification Conference to be held in San Diego in January and the NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute he would be attending in October. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh mentioned the American Council on Rural Special Education, a national organization, and its national conference, which will be held in Billings on March 14-17, 2007.

ITEM 9 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Draft Annual Report
- B. Review Code of Ethics
- C. Vote on Bylaws change – committee title
- D. Chris Lohse present on American Indian information
- E. MSELC report
- F. Panel of Master teachers for successful field experience evidence

ITEM 10 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Motion: Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Reisig adjourned the meeting at 10:40 A.M.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may write or call: CSPAC, PO Box 200601, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620-0601, (406) 444-6576.