



Council for Teacher Education

Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2025

Members Present: Grace Allbaugh, Christy Bazan, Sarah Boesdorfer, Yojanna Cuenca-Carlino, Amanda Cullen, Vickie Graziano, Cailyn Grieshaber, Amy Hurd, Jeongae Kang, Meghan Kessler, Sonia Kline, Allison Kroesch, Jamie Mahurin Smith, Todd McLoda, Barb Meyer, Erin Mikulec, Kathy Mountjoy, Monica Noraian, Dianne Renn, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Noelle Selkow, Bert Stabler, Jill Thomas, Gavin Weiser

Absent: Nesrin Bakir, Ryan Brown, Caitlin Stewart, Lexi Toler, Rudo Tsemunhu

Guests: Peggy Finnegan-Boyes, Gary Higham, Troy Hinkel, Laura Lancaster, Heidi Olsen

I. **Call to order:** C. Bazan called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

II. **Roll Call:** K. Brown conducted a roll call.

III. **Approval of minutes from the December 3, 2024 meeting:** Motion to approve-C. Bazan; all in favor, minutes approved.

IV. **Information Items:**

- a. **Updates from Laura Lancaster, Secondary K-12 Teacher Education Liaison** – There are 19 different programs in Secondary K-12 with unique challenges. Hiring supervisors can prove difficult with different program sizes, travel needs, and requirements such as assessment reporting. The secondary K-12 program group meets regularly to discuss common concerns, offer each other support, and advocate as a larger group.
- b. **Fall and Spring Data on Content Exams, Troy Hinkel** – Shared an update on test passage rates and content test updates. Currently, there have been 542 passed tests, 106 failed, and 11 with no results. Students should take their content test before 5/4/25 to ensure a score report date of 5/16/25 and not delay their ability to be licensed after student teaching.
Effective 1/28/25, Pearson now offers one ILTS practice test automatically when registering for the corresponding content test. There is no additional cost for the practice test. Additionally, beginning after 1/28/25, they are offering free retakes for candidates who have taken the same ILTS test twice and have not yet passed but achieved a test-specific qualifying/scaled score on at least one attempt.
- c. **Content Test Voucher Updates and Processes, Monica Noraian** – The Lauby Center is offering vouchers to help offset the high cost of content tests. To make use of vouchers with short expiration dates, students can each get four \$25 vouchers during the month of February. Students must register for the content test prior to the voucher expiration date. Tests can be registered up to one year in advance. The TEC is also granting \$100 awards to those students who must travel 20 or more miles one way to their student teaching placement. In support of the March 4 Education Career Fair, the TEC is sponsoring a free share shop pop-up to bolster students' classroom-appropriate wardrobes and interview-ready attire.
- d. **Lab School Collaboration Day 2/28 12-3 pm, updates & information, Vicki Graziano, Laura Lancaster** – This is a day scheduled for collaboration and relationship-building between the lab schools and university faculty & staff. Brainstorming ideas for strengthening clinical experiences, sharing initiatives currently being used, and touring the schools are on the agenda. Any topic suggestions are welcomed. Invite sent to all CTE members and TE programs.
- e. **CRTLS updates, Peggy Finnegan-Boyes** – CRTLS will be mandated by law as of October 2025, and ISBE requires all TE programs to submit program alignment. Our internal ISU deadline is April 1st. Earlier this year, ISBE reviewed our program submissions, and the feedback was positive. TE Programs are now being asked for final submissions. Much of the reporting work has already been completed and can be used for the final documentation. Peggy is offering workshop opportunities on 2/11 and 2/12 in the Lauby Center.

V. **Subcommittees**

- a. **Curriculum** – Allison Kroesch – The committee approved several recent requests. TCH requested changes that brought courses in line with IDES guidelines. Modifications that swapped clinical hours between two courses in ART education and reduced hours in the Biology Education program were also approved.
- b. **Student Interest** - Christy Bazan shared on behalf of the committee. Nominations are being sought for their annual scholarship program, which is based on a lesson plan (details to follow). Council members are encouraged to send nominations to Sara Piotrowski in the Lauby TEC for the annual CTE student excellence award.

- c. **University Liaison and Faculty Interests** – Monica Noraian – The bylaws are back to CTE for additional edits following a thoughtful review and discussion with the Senate.
- d. **University Teacher Education Assessment** - Sarah Boesdorfer – The committee reminded members of the upcoming February due date for APIR submissions. The committee will then begin reviewing and giving feedback.
- e. **Vision** - Jill Thomas – The PERS system will be piloted this Spring. Testing and tutorial creation are now being done with hopes of a rollout in the fall.

VI. Discussion Items:

- a. By-Laws revision update from Senate meeting & membership discussion, Christy Bazan & Monica Noraian – The bylaws will go back to Senate after a suggested expansion of the term “faculty or staff” to “faculty members or program coordinators, or directors affiliated with an educator preparation program”. Erin Mikulec requested that clarification be placed into the bylaws regarding TERB (Teacher Education Review Board) processes or more information on the website. Historically, legal counsel recommendation kept TERB details separate from the Bylaws. The Lauby Center website currently houses this information.

VII. Action Items: None

VIII. Legislative Updates: Todd McLoda - During the recent IADPCE meeting, Policy Director Bill Curtin from Teach Plus shared the following.

- a. Update on the proposed student teaching reimbursement/stipend bill proposed last legislative session –this year, the budget is very tight, and there will not be new programs approved that add costs to the state budget; therefore, the bill will not be introduced this spring; instead, a bill will be introduced that states universities cannot prohibit students from accepting student teaching experiences that include payment.
- b. Advocacy relative to funding the ECACE program – federal funding has lapsed, and the state cannot support the program; the advocacy is to phase out the program gradually and is requesting funds to support students who have started the EC program but have not finished yet.
- c. Fixes for content licensure exams – work shows significant bias on passage based on demographic variables. The law states that the exams must be equitable; however, with Pearson's lack of financial incentive to make changes to the exams and the absence of competition in this market, the state board is limited in what they can do. A bill has been submitted to the legislative review board that triggers a review for content exams that have a high failure rate or a high gap rate in performance; another part of the bill is to sub-score any candidates who are not passing the current exam even though there is no current provision for sub-scoring; third is a transparency clause that requires reporting of the scoring results by content area.
- d. The launch of a teacher leadership coalition that is pushing for more coordinated state-level support of teacher leadership. In the long term, this group may push for more consistent incorporation of distributed leadership principles in both teacher and principal preparation (though that hasn't been decided in any tangible way). – asking for \$0.5M to fund this; provided an overview of the Dice Roll report from last year; advocating for teacher leader micro-credentials so interested districts can encourage teacher participation and the teachers get credentials in return.

IX. Announcements and Last Comments:

- a. Brad Franke will join our Feb 18, 2025, meeting over Zoom
- b. T. Hinkel – Has heard mention of a bill that will require large districts to interview applicants of diversity.
- c. T. Hinkel – Pearson has not sent Content Test vouchers that historically would have been given to us in October 2024
- d. Save the Date: Educator Advocacy Day in Springfield, Wednesday, April 2, 2025
- e. Hunter Family Trust Scholarship available to graduates of a McLean County high school
- f. Clothing Drive/Share Shop in the Lauby Center the week prior to the Education Career Fair

X. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. made by C. Bazan

Next CTE Executive Board Meeting: February 11, 2025, 2-3 pm & CTE Subcommittee Meetings: February 11, 2025, 3:00-4:30 pm

Curriculum: Allison Kroesch, Chair (DEG 304 3:00-4:30)

Student Interests Committee: Caitlin Stewart, Chair (DEG 56 Conference Room 3:30-4:30)

University Liaison and Faculty Interests: Todd McLoda & Monica Noraian, Co-Chairs (DEG 504 3:00-4:30)

University Teacher Education Assessment Committee: Sarah Boesdorfer, Chair (DEG 551 3:00-4:00)

Vision: Jill Thomas, Chair (DEG 506A 3:00-4:00)

Next CTE Meeting: February 18, 2025, 3:00-4:30 pm

2024-2025 CTE & COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

CTE (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) DEG 551	Exec & Subcommittees (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)
Feb. 4	Feb. 11
Feb. 18	Feb. 25
March 4	March 11 (No Meeting – Spring Break)
March 18 (No Meeting – Spring Break)	March 25
April 1	April 8
April 15	April 22