



## *Council for Teacher Education*

### Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2025, 3:00-4:30 pm

**Members Present:** Joshua Altshuler, Aaron Baker, Sarah Boesdorfer, Gary Cates, Amanda Cullen, Jeongae Kang, Allison Kroesch, Cassandra Mattoon, Michelle Maurer, Erin Mikulec, Kathy Mountjoy, Monica Noraian, Oscar Nunez-Enriquez, Jay Percell, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Bert Stabler, Mary Tackett, Rudo Tsemunhu, Janet Tulley, Michael Young, Bryan Zugelder

**Absent:** Yojanna Cuenca-Carlino, Cailyn Grieshaber, Amy Hurd, Sonia Kline, Claudia Petrescu, Rudo Tsemunhu

**Guests:** Angela Bonnell, Peggy Finnegan-Boyes, Gary Higham, Troy Hinkel, Deborah MacPhee, Heidi Olsen; Brad Franke & Jon Pyatt presenting via Zoom

- I. **Call to order:** A. Kroesch called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm
- II. **Roll Call:** K. Brown conducted a roll call.
- III. **Approval of minutes:** August 26<sup>th</sup> minutes approved unanimously with no abstentions
- IV. **Information Items:**
  - I. **Academic Senate Welcome Remarks: Angie Bonnell, Chair, Academic Senate,** addressed the CTE members and explained their role as a subcommittee of the Academic Senate. Angie praised the council for their work on the CTE bylaw updates approved last academic year and gave a summary of several Senate goals for the upcoming year. They will be reviewing the Student Code of Conduct, policies on recording in classrooms, aligning Senate policies with UFISU collective bargaining, as well as the matter of student teaching stipend policy and funding issues being considered in the state legislature.
  - II. **Legislative & Education Advocacy Updates: Two Zoom Speakers**
    - i. **State Level - Brad Franke, Director of Public Affairs & Policy ISU** – Brad works as ISU’s advocate in Springfield, strengthening the University’s relationship with state representatives and their staff. In the Spring session, funding to ISU was increased by 1% with an additional 2% held at the discretion of the Governor. Brad gave a rundown of some higher education issues that passed in the Spring.
      1. Fundings
        - a. MAP
        - b. Aim High
        - c. ECAC
        - d. Veterans Grant Program
        - e. Mental help early action
        - f. Reenrollment for adult learners
      2. House bills
        - a. House bill 3522: direct admissions program
        - b. House bill 3300: data reporting from universities. ISU was neutral
        - c. House bill 1958: lessons red tape around transfer students
        - d. House bill 3709: expanded reproductive health services at universities
        - e. Senate Joint Resolution 13: University library task force to examine the state of libraries and librarians on IL public university campuses. A representative from a college or university was added to the task force.
        - f. Student teaching stipend bill: ISU supports this bill; however, the University cannot fund these stipends. Brad’s advocating in Springfield for funding.
      3. Brad is looking forward to participating in education lobby days with ISU. These experiences are coordinated with the Lauby Center.
    4. Brad is working with legislators to seek financial relief for state unfunded mandates: The Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) program waived tuition for future SED teachers who commit to teaching in Illinois for a set period, resulting in an unfunded loss to ISU of approximately 6 million dollars in tuition. Methods of reimbursement are being sought to cover expenditures.

- ii. **Federal Level – Jon Pyatt, Mercury Public Affairs, (public affairs firm assisting ISU in DC)** – Jon gave a summary of the current political climate, discussing the impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) and several executive orders passed by President Trump on higher education.
  - a. Freeze on research grants
  - b. Threatening revocation of accreditations
  - c. DOJ response to campus protests
  - d. Limiting international student enrollment and looking at the political views of the students
  - e. DEI
  - f. Tightened access to federal aid. Reduced access to PEL grants, freezing of appropriated TRIO program funds, cuts to the Federal Work Study program, changes to Parent PLUS loans, elimination of the Grad PLUS loan program, and the Department of Education’s workforce was minimized.

The public affairs team is keeping a close watch on the looming budget deadline on September 30, 2025, for a possible government shutdown, as they continue to monitor executive orders coming from Washington.

- iii. **Q & A:** J. Tulley thanked Brad and Jon for their advocacy of ISU and Teacher Education in Illinois. J. Percell asked for input from Brad on a mechanism for disseminating legislative changes to students. Brad will consider options for communication.

#### **V. Subcommittees Reports:**

- I. **Curriculum Committee:** R. Rivadeneyra – Several subcommittee members attended training for the academic operations platform Coursedog, which is currently in a bit of a holding pattern. The Curriculum Proposals that were started in the Spring term using the old system are now moving forward to the committee.  
A proposal for a new minor program in School Health Education was brought to a CTE Council vote. It was recommended that clear language be used to avoid a guarantee of subsequent endorsement with completion (May lead to a subsequent endorsement) The minor is open to both education and non-education majors. The Approval was recommended by last year’s Curriculum Committee, before which it was proposed. Kroesch brought it to a vote, S. Boesdorfer motioned to approve a vote, and J. Percell seconded the motion. All members present, were in favor with no abstentions.
- II. **Advocacy Committee:** J. Percell – Committee goals were reviewed. 1) Advocacy work. They will team with the Efaw Center, the Lauby Center, and ISU’s government relations team to promote and support Teacher Education Advocacy. 2) Developing a mechanism for disseminating legislative information to students. 3) Identifying a common framework for Teacher Education. Thoughtful questions posed (What does that look like at ISU? What is our brand, perceptions, and core values?) and discussion ensued with more to come.
- III. **Student (Advocacy &) Interest Committee:** M. Tackett – Discussed plans for increased student involvement. Began developing the theme for the Student Excellence Award. Discussed the PER system and how to make students aware of the new process.
- IV. **University Educator Preparation Program Assessment & Reporting Committee:** S. Boesdorfer – Worked on revisions of their annual survey to receive effective feedback from programs.

#### **VI. Discussion Items:**

- I. **PER Process Check-in & Discussion:** members shared comments and asked questions about the new Professional Expectation Review process. We have received 21 PERs to date, which is higher than normal. Discussion revolved around methods of communicating the non-punitive nature of the process. Working with the Efaw Center should not suggest a negative progression in Teacher Ed, but rather a proactive means to succeed. Some members get a sense that the PERs system is viewed as less punitive than the old disposition system. Some type of system for positive reinforcement was suggested, rewarding those who represent the pillars of excellence. Questions were posed about students who re-enter Teacher Ed, in the PULSE program, for example. Would they need to worry if they had dispositions that were more than 10 years old? It is believed that they would not from that far back.

#### **VII. Action Items:** None

#### **VIII. Legislative Updates:** None

#### **IX. Announcements and Last Comments:**

- I. **Rockford School District Visit:** The Lauby Center is sponsoring a trip on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> to learn more about this district’s efforts to attract teachers while offering housing support and stipends to student teachers who are placed in their district.
- II. **Housing Options while Student Teaching:** A flyer with updated options and suggestions was provided to be shared with students.

- III. **ISBE Legislative Updates:** a handout was shared detailing Public Act 104-0128 regarding licensure testing requirements and exemptions for school support personnel and chief school business officials, Public Act 104-0020 making student growth components optional in teacher performance evaluation, and Public Act 104-0111 regarding extension of validity date of a short-term approval due to the presence of a serious medical condition.

- IV. ISBE has discussed Incorporating “Testlets” in licensure tests. More to be shared as it comes available.

X. **Adjournment:** 4:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn by A. Kroesch

**Next CTE Executive Board Meeting: October 7, 2025, 2-3 pm & CTE Subcommittee Meetings: Oct. 7, 2025, 3:00-4:30 pm**

**Advocacy Committee:** Co-Chairs Jay Percell & Bryan Zugelder (DEG 506A 3:00-4:30)

**Curriculum Committee:** Chair Rocio Rivadeneyra (DEG 304 3:00-4:30)

**Student (Advocacy &) Interests Committee:** Co-Chairs Mary Tackett & Sara Piotrowski (DEG 504 3:30-4:30)

**University Educator Preparation Program Assessment & Reporting Committee:** Chair Sarah Boesdorfer (DEG 551 3:00-4:30)

**Next CTE Meeting: October 28, 2025, 3:00-4:30 pm**

#### 2025-2026 CTE & COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

| CTE DEG 551 | 2025 Exec & Subcommittees            | 2026 Exec & Subcommittees: continued  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aug. 26     | Aug. 19                              | Jan. 6 ( <a href="#">No Meeting</a> ) |
| Sept. 23    | Sept. 2                              | Jan. 20                               |
| Oct. 28     | Sept. 16                             | Feb. 3                                |
| Nov. 18     | Oct. 7                               | Feb. 17                               |
| Dec. 9      | Oct. 21                              | Mar. 3                                |
| Jan. 27     | Nov. 4                               | Mar. 17                               |
| Feb. 24     | <a href="#">Nov. 18 (No Meeting)</a> | Apr. 7                                |
| Mar. 24     | Dec. 2                               | Apr. 21                               |
| Apr. 28     | <a href="#">Dec. 16 (No Meeting)</a> |                                       |