EPD Council Summary  
Tuesday, April 27, 2010  
8:30 a.m  
SC Bldg. 4, Room 119

Present: Sherry Cox, Mona Ryan, Joyce Brandes, Sacra Nicholas, Cheryl Walker-Esbaugh, John Covaleskie, Lauren Mathis, Teresa Bell, Charlene Dell, Neil Houser, Jiening Ruan, Donna Abraham, Michael Langenbach and Jamie Aldridge.

Approval of the Minutes
Upon a motion made by Donna Abraham and seconded by Teresa Bell the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

I. Information/Discussion/Actions

• EPD Executive Committee Membership - Mike Langenbach shared a handout with the members as a reminder of the terms served by the Executive Committee. The handout reflected that a new member will be elected to begin in Spring 2011. Mike informed members that nominations for this position will be on the October 2010 agenda.

• AY 2009-10 Resolutions - Mike Langenbach then shared a handout with members of the resolutions made by EPD in AY 2009-10.

II. Committee Updates

• Professional Sequence – No report.

• Student Advising – Sherry Cox shared with members that the teacher job fair was very successfully. Last count Sherry had was 130 of the College of Education students participating. She provided members with a handout of the school districts participating in the event. Sherry reported that it has been requested to host another job fair as a standalone just for College of Education students. It is felt the Job Fair was such a success that even more districts will be participating next year. One request from some of the school districts was to coordinate with OSU and UCO for a 3 day event drawing even more school districts to participate. Sherry informed Joyce Brandes that Mid-Del reported that they will be hiring several Special Education teachers in the fall. She also shared information from Choctaw Public Schools that they are very interested in having more OU interns in their schools. Sherry thanked faculty who attended the Job Fair as well as those who encouraged their students to attend.

Sherry reported to members that some of the Texas school districts shared that Texas is looking at a moratorium on hiring alternatively certified teachers. She reported that at this point there is nothing in writing, but it is being talked about in the legislature.

Mike Langenbach recounted hearing from Gregg Garn at another meeting where Gregg had been meeting with state superintendents and reported from them that the economic times were such that they will not be hiring many new teachers. They encouraged Gregg, as a teacher educator, not to discourage students, but to help them be realistic that jobs are going to become more scarce.

Mike Langenbach shared information he saw from the Personnel Department at Norman Public School. The report showed that 51 of the 98 new teachers in Norman were OU graduates this past year. Looking forward according to Pat Nolen at Norman Schools he was not optimistic it would be similar one year from now.

Neil Houser shared that 4 of the 6 resident teachers that he has worked with this year are not being rehired for next year. Sacra Nicholas and John Covaleskie shared the same experience with their resident teachers. It was shared they may get hired back, but the teachers will not know until the school budgets have been set. Mike Langenbach shared with members that in light of the job shortages that he has invited the department chairs to participate in the internship closure meeting to inform students of the many Master’s degrees that could be an option for them.
• **Certification/residency/field experiences** – Jamie Aldridge reported to members that she is finalizing the Federal Title II report that is due on April 30. She also shared that she is working on internship placements for the fall.

• **EPD Priorities for 2009-2010** –

• **Other Business** – Donna Abraham shared with members that the Annual EPD Advisory Open meeting will be Wednesday, May 5th at 5:15 p.m. in Room 147. She informed all members that they are welcome to attend and to e-mail Jamie Aldridge of any ideas to be shared with the districts.

Mona Ryan shared some confusion with certification with contract Speech Language Pathologists in the schools as to whether they have to be certified and do a residency. She has asked the Oklahoma State Department of Education to put something in writing to be able to inform students of the policy. Mona indicated that the written policy should be in place sometime this summer.

Mona Ryan also announced to members that Capitol Day will be May 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be talking about better mental health and better hearing and speech. She shared free stress and hearing tests will be available as well as ice cream and brownies.

Mona Ryan reported that she was given notice this week that their representative missed the deadline to present Senate Bill 971. It was a professional leave bill that made it all the way through last year except for the last vote on the Floor and the House. She indicated that the bill may have to be rewritten to be submitted in the fall.

Sacra Nicholas shared with members that there has been a consideration of a master teacher certification of 15 credit hours for Elementary teachers to become master teachers in mathematics education at the State Department. She informed members that this has been going on for a year or so and she does not know where it is in that process now. Sacra told members that it has always made sense to her to put a tier between bachelor’s and master’s degrees as a growth step and once they get that far they are only a few more steps away from getting a Master’s degree. Sherry informed members if it were like the certificate program for ELL and ESL that it is not a difficult process to get started. She reported that the Graduate College has been supportive of the certificate programs that get students back in to classes and hopefully lead to a Master’s degree.

Mike Langenbach suggested there were a couple of levels that could be looked at: 1) the program area could say that this program is worthy of a certificate, 2) we could go to the Graduate College and ask what their ideas would be for a certificate program, and 3) look at who issues certificates, which is the State Department and ask them if is possible to do something short of a Master’s degree. Then once all the information is collected the program area could put together a package.

It was discussed that the course work should be of pedagogical content and not the subject matter. Sherry Cox reiterated that point when the proposal was written for ELL and ESL. The proposal was written so that it didn’t look like they were trying to teach Foreign Language courses, but that they were trying to work on communication skills. Sherry told members she would give a copy to Jamie Aldridge to e-mail out to faculty.

It was suggested that there should be continued discussion concerning a master teacher certificate, ELL and ESL program, & Master’s degrees.

Mona Ryan announced another issue they were facing with certification is June 30, 2010 there is a group of people who had bachelor’s level Speech Language Therapists that will be losing their certification. These people will be losing their certification because they failed since 1985 to get their Master’s degree, which is the entry year. They are an experienced group of people that had to pass the OSAT and didn’t take that test. She shared that they are currently working with the State Department on reviews of some of these people. It is feared that many of the people may not pass the tests, which means they will be losing their jobs. She is also working with
the OSDE on another job level for these people. Mona is also working on a Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program with OCCC. She is hopeful that funding from a federal grant will be available in January and they can be recertified as speech assistants that would help them maintain their jobs, but be under the license of another person. Mona stressed that these people are in high need areas where if they lose their job there will be no services at all.

- **Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.