EPD Council Summary  
Tuesday, February 23, 2010  
8:30 a.m  
SC Bldg. 4, Room 119

Present: Sherry Cox, Joyce Brandes, Sacra Nicholas, Stacy Reeder, Jeff Maiden, David Lovett, Kathryn Haring, Cheryl Walker-Esbaugh, Jim Gardner, John Covalskie, Charlene Dell, Lauren Mathis, Kendra Williams-Diehm, Neil Houser, Jiening Ruan, Donna Abraham, and Jamie Aldridge.

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

I. Committee Updates

- Professional Sequence – Joyce Brandes reported that there have not been any meetings in several months.

- Student Advising – Sherry Cox again asked faculty to provide her with a list of any education courses that they would be willing to have qualified international education students enrolled in their class. She stressed that students would have to verify that they are working towards a degree in education at their university and would also have to provide TOEFL scores.

Sherry Cox reminded members the OU Job Expo will be held on April 7th in the Student Union Ballroom. Our students will meet with the attending school districts from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The College of Education will provide lunch for faculty and students in attendance. In the afternoon, agencies and school districts remaining will be available for all students to visit with and answer questions. The afternoon will be for COE students only. Sherry Cox shared with members that all details have not been worked out at this time, like the site for the luncheon, but an e-mail will be sent out with the details as soon as they are confirmed.

- Certification/residency/field experiences – Jamie Aldridge began by sharing an e-mail from Mike Langenbach regarding SPA feedback. The e-mail informed members that Langenbach would provide feedback to SPA writers anytime between now and June 1. He also stated in the e-mail that even if the entire SPA was not yet written that he would be happy to look at what they have so far, assuming it was more than what they had last fall for Leah Englehardt. Besides offering to provide feedback he also reminded members August, 2010 is the deadline for the NCATE.

Jamie Aldridge then told members that all EIPT 3483 field experience placement have been made. Aldridge also disclosed the Fall 2010 internship information and dates with members. The fall Orientation will be Monday, August 25th at 9:00 a.m. and the Closure meeting will be Monday, December 13th at 1:00 p.m. Although, she does not have confirmation from the Sam Noble Museum Jamie feels reasonably sure both events will be held at their facility. She shared the due date for Fall 2010 internship registration and essay is April 2, 2010 with the fingerprinting and background check confirmations due April 23.

Lastly, Aldridge announced she is working to finalize tuition waiver requests.

II. Information/Discussion/Actions

- Budget Concerns/Course Scheduling – Charlene Dell shared that budget cuts forcing fewer sections of courses and the tight schedules of the Music Education students will force these students to take their education courses during the summers. This situation will make it difficult for these students to complete their program on time. Charlene Dell expressed the need for better communication between Colleges when course sections have been cut. Neil Houser raised the question to members concerning what could be done to make this process happen more systematically. Thoughts from members included software that provided a diagram or visual representation of scheduled certification courses, highlighting potential conflicts. Also mentioned was to start offering courses online, which would make it easier for all students. It was pointed out that online alternatives may raise larger quality issues that need to be considered. The group agreed for the time being to keep the lines of communication open regarding the issue of overlapping courses and to revisit ideas of software, online courses, or additional thoughts.
Special Education M.Ed. – David Lovett announced that since the last EPD meeting the Special Education faculty had received four questions from faculty concerning their proposed Master’s degree leading to certification. These included:

1) **What is the content of the Developmental Language and Literacy Course? How is it different from the Developmental Literacy Courses Offered by the ILAC faculty?**
   
   Dr. Lovett explained that in EDSP 4053, Language and Literacy Development, strategies are specific to students who are at-risk or identified as having substantial language and literacy developmental delays. He noted that the tutoring emphasis is on a 1:1 to 1:4 ratio of teachers to students. In addition to the tutoring, undergraduate students critique 2 empirical research manuscripts and graduate students critique 6 and present them to the class.

2) **How is the program meeting the professional sequence requirements? Are the courses being listed as pre-requisites?**
   
   Dr. Lovett provided members with a matrix that illustrated how the competencies of the professional sequence are infused into the Master’s degree and certification courses. He informed members that according to the Commission this requirement only applies to students in the undergraduate program.

3) **Are all 15 competencies being met?**
   
   Dr. Lovett assured faculty that all 15 competencies will be met in the Master’s program along with the standards of the Council for Exceptional Children.

4) **How are the highly qualified requirements for Special Education Master’s/Certification candidates focusing on elementary education being met (High School can do alternative certification, but elementary no longer can)?**
   
   Dr. Lovett stated that the program plan is based on specified coursework and individual experiences and skills matched to necessary competencies identified for highly effective special education teachers. He noted that they are preparing only Special Education teachers and not teachers in the content areas. He noted that it is difficult to plan for meeting the requirements for “highly qualified” Special Education teachers as there continue to be changes in the laws and requirements at both the state and federal levels. He explained at the federal level, the administration plans to incorporate a definition of “highly effective” Special Education teachers into the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that is projected to pass this year.

Stacy Reeder asked about opportunities for students in this program to receive instruction from faculty throughout the college. Neil Houser added that this had come up in discussions in ILAC regarding the value of providing graduate students with diverse perspectives presented in different program areas. Jim Gardner responded that the graduate students in the program can take additional electives if needed.

Donna Abraham made a motion to approve the Special Education M.Ed. leading to Special Education licensure. Jeff Maiden seconded the motion. With a hand vote from members the motion was approved unanimously.

- **EPD Priorities for 2009-2010** – None were mentioned.

- **Other Business** – Donna Abraham invited members that the EPD Advisory Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 24th. She Informed to members that she will be talking to the Advisory Council about the Holmes Conference that she attended in Charleston where she attended a session on “Secrets of Successful Teaching: Lessons from Award Winning Teachers”. Neil Houser asked Donna if she would report on the conference at the March EPD meeting. Donna agreed.

- **Adjournment:**

  The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.