

Minutes

Basic Programs Committee

October 5, 2000
3-5 pm, Porter 301

Present: Phil Cardon (BTE), Bill Cupples (SPED), Carolyn Finch (COE), Ron Fulkert (BTE), Barbara Gorenflo (COE/ST.Tchr), Gerry Green (MATH, Ron Hoodin (Guest representing SPED), Sarah Huyvaert (TED), Chris Lancaster (COE), Georgia Langer (TED), Linda Lewis-White (TED), Maureen McCormack (TED/St. Tchr.), Michael Paciorek (HPER&D), Kathlyn Parker (SPED/ St. Tchr.), Donald B. Phillips (CHEM), Pat Pokay (TED), Shawn Quilter (TED), Bill Tucker (ENG)

The meeting was called to order by co-chairs, Linda Lewis-White and Shawn Quilter. Minutes of the September 21, 2000 meeting were unanimously approved.

New Business

Bill Cupples introduced and asked the committee for approval of a new undergraduate course, SPSI 347, Management of Acquired Neurological Communication Disorders. The course does not add any undergraduate credits, and is open to majors only. It is needed to teach undergraduate majors assessment techniques for adult neurological disorders they may encounter. The material is covered in more depth at the graduate level by three graduate courses. Ron Hooding distributed a syllabus of the course.

Motion: The course, SPSI 347, Management of Acquired Neurological Communication Disorders. be approved by the Basic Programs Committee.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

2.

Bill Cupples introduced and asked the committee for approval of proposed changes in the Master's Program in Speech-Language Pathology. The changes will not effect the teacher education program, but are in-house changes that better align the program with the State Department of Education's accreditation requirements. Copies of the changes were distributed to the committee members.

Motion: The proposed changes in the Master's Program in Speech-Language Pathology be approved by the Basic Programs Committee.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

The BPC reviewed Dean Robbins' concerns related to low pass rates on mandatory certification tests. A memo to this effect was already forwarded to the members of the BPC.

Discussion/Major Concerns

Post-bacs are signing up and taking the tests as our students even though they have taken their coursework elsewhere. The numbers include both majors and minors within an area. In some cases, there is too big of a choice of electives for students minoring in a field. If faculty knows better what is required on the test, they can better steer students into courses that will better prepare them.

At this time both The Basic Skills Test and any area certification tests the student signs up to take are administered within 4 hours. The student is given the same 4 hours to complete one part of The Basic Skills Test, or the entire three parts, or any subject area test as well. This time limitation may be contributing to the student failure rate.

The curriculum for minors needs to be aligned better with the subtests. We need to have a periodic review process in place. For programs with low pass rates there is a question of whether that program is meeting the students' needs. The following recommendations were made by the BPC.

Advising needs to be tighter. We need to closely monitor the student's progress, and advise them when to take the test. This will decrease the incidence of students taking the tests without being adequately prepared for them. There also needs to be an option for those students failing the tests on their initial attempt. Faculty from each department needs to take the test so they will be more familiar with test requirements and can better prepare students. Curriculum needs to be better aligned with the tests. There needs to be a form in place to guide periodic review of test items.

Old Business

The BPC reviewed the matrix linking general education requirements for prospective teachers in the Post-bac program to objectives in the Elementary Subject Area Test. The following correlations were found:

Language Arts – The objectives are covered in Eng. 121.

Mathematics – The objectives are covered in both Math 108 & 109.

Social Studies –

Science –

The Arts – Most objectives are covered by FA300 & MUS 104.

Health and Physical Education – The first three objectives are covered by HPERD 320, and the last two objectives are covered by PHED 257.

The BPC did not have enough information, and will solicit information from Social studies and Science departments.

The BPC reviewed Dean Robbins' request to add as an admission to initial teacher certification programs for Post-bac candidates : "passing score on the Michigan Test of Teacher Certification in the major teaching field".

Discussion/Major Concerns

Some IHEs do require these tests for admission, but they also require the completion of major and minor fields.

Because there is so much pedagogical content on some tests, requiring passing of the tests for admission presents an undue burden on the students since they are not presumed to have that knowledge yet. It is very difficult to separate the pedagogical from content knowledge on the tests.

Do Post-bacs represent a large part of the failure rate on the Michigan Test of Teacher Certification? No member of the BPC was familiar with any facts in support of this question.

Are the numbers of students who self-identify as EMU students actually in an EMU program? These numbers could be bringing down EMU pass rates, and be an inaccurate reflection of our students' success.

Is it possible to require those students who completed coursework elsewhere to take the tests for entrance to EMU programs? This question is also unknown at this time.

The BPC does not feel there is adequate information to make a determination on this issue at this time.

Motion: The BPC approve the Dean's request to add as an admission to initial teacher certification programs for Post-bac candidates : "passing score on the Michigan Test of Teacher Certification in the major teaching field".

The motion was seconded.

For: 0

Opposed: 18

Abstaining: 0

The motion was not approved.

Announcements

Linda Lewis-White announced the upcoming meeting (November 15, 2000) of the NCSS in San Antonio, Texas.

Complete review of the following programs are on the agenda for the October 19, 2000 meeting of the BPC:

Reconfiguration of Japanese Language and Culture

Reconfiguration of English literature

Reconfiguration of History and Economics

There being no other items to be announced, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting is October 19, room 301B Porter.