

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

*Higher Education Complex
2500 Broadway
Helena MT 59620
Conference Room 102A*

CALL TO ORDER

CSPAC Chair, Ms. Gloria Curdy, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council to order on Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 8:39AM. CSPAC council members present were: Ms. Gloria Curdy, Chair; Mr. Scott McCulloch, Vice Chair; Dr. George White; Ms. Charla Bunker; and Ms. Tonia Bloom. Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson and Dr. Doug Reisig were absent. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary to the Board of Public Education; and Ms. Sarah Flemming, CSPAC Secretary. The following people signed the meeting roster: Ms. Cathy Warhank, OPI; Mr. Darrell Rud, SAM; Mr. Bob Clemen, MSU; and Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI.

Ms. Curdy asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the agenda. She requested that Dr. White provide a TEAC/NCATE update as indicated in the January 20, 2005 meeting minutes. Council members elected to add the update under Item 9. The council accepted the agenda.

Motion: Dr. George White voted to approve the January 20th CSPAC meeting minutes. Mr. Scott McCulloch seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Donovan provided a review of CSPAC correspondence. Mr. Donovan has been invited to participate in the State Mentor Task Force that is being instigated by OPI. He reviewed the goals of the task force with the council. He stated that many different groups in school districts around Montana have consulted CSPAC's research report on mentoring entitled *The Single Best Thing: Mentoring Beginning Teachers*. Ms. Curdy requested information about the number of school districts that have mentorship programs in the state. She invited Ms. Bunker to comment on the mentorship program in Great Falls. Ms. Bunker stated that Great Falls has a great program, but that it has a small stipend, and mentors and mentees must meet before and after school.

Mr. Donovan also reviewed a letter from the Maryland Department of Education inviting him to participate in the Enhancing Troops to Teachers grant.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Gloria Curdy

Ms. Curdy reviewed the CSPAC Bylaws with the council. She invited council members to discuss any comments, additions, or corrections. A conversation commenced about article 2: Purpose. Ms. Bunker asked if it would be necessary to add that CSPAC supports certification

standards for paraprofessionals to the bylaws. The topic was discussed and it was decided that, as the issue progresses, an adjustment to the bylaws may be needed. However, Ms. Curdy stated that until the Board of Public Education endorses certification standards for paraprofessionals it would be premature to add it to the CSPAC bylaws.

Ms. Curdy led the council through an evaluation of the progress of CSPAC goals. She stated that CSPAC had made progress on goal 1. She stated that CSPAC's participation in the Education Forum, the addition of guest speakers at meetings, and CSPAC members' attendance at conferences have all supported goal 1. She stated that the council is staying current with trends in the education profession. In terms of the second goal, Alternate Certification Avenues, Ms. Curdy stated that CSPAC had been involved in teacher reciprocity issues, paraprofessional licensure issues, the PEPPS rewrite, and the Chapter 57 rewrite. Ms. Curdy concluded that CSPAC had made progress on goal 3, Monitoring Programs and Potential Opportunities, with its involvement in the mentorship program, distance learning, Praxis testing, NCATE issues, and in the joint meeting with the Council of Deans. Dr. White stated that he felt CSPAC had progressed in this goal because of its involvement in paraprofessional licensure and its concern with teacher retention and recruitment.

ITEM 2 CHAIR'S REPORT – Gloria Curdy

Ms. Curdy provided a brief review of the Annual Report. Ms. Curdy discussed the planning for the BPE/CSPAC joint meeting. She asked that each member give an update on their committee to the Board.

ITEM 3 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – Mr. Steve Meloy

Mr. Meloy provided the Board of Public Education update to the CSPAC Committee. He gave a brief synopsis of education bills in the legislature. He stated that there are six different committees in the legislature that deal with K-12 education. Mr. Meloy stated that the legislature is concerned about the Board of Public Education adopting any standards that cannot be absorbed by school districts. Mr. Meloy stated that there is no evidence that the Board of Public Education has ever passed a standard that school districts could not absorb. Mr. Meloy discussed some problematic language in a bill that could be challenged by the Board if passed by the legislature.

Mr. Meloy showed CSPAC the Board's initiative foldout emphasizing Higher Education that appeared in newspapers across Montana. He stated that the Board plans to have another drop that highlights K-12 education. Ms. Curdy requested that he alert CSPAC and the Board when the K-12 literature drop is expected to be published.

Mr. Meloy stated that he and Dr. Kirk Miller attended the Wheeler Forum, a day long session on education funding, at which Dr. Miller presented his research paper.

Mr. Meloy brought Senate Bill 198 to CSPAC's attention. Senate Bill 198 deals with an anti-bullying policy. Though Mr. Meloy agreed with the proponents, he stated he had to testify as an opponent to the bill because it puts the legislature in the position of dictating directly through legislation to state agencies.

Mr. Meloy is working with OPI on Healthy Schools Network on a tobacco policy. He stated that the federal government recommended that there be no tobacco use on school property. He discussed the difficulty of enforcing this policy in Montana.

Mr. Meloy also attended a half-day counselling initiative meeting. He stated that school counselors are having an “identity crisis” and are feeling that other school officials do not readily recognize what they do. They would like to upgrade their scope of responsibilities and are in process of drafting a strategic plan.

Mr. Meloy presented an update on the CSPAC Budget. He stated that he is worried about the research fund because he fears the legislature will want to cut it because there are no identified line items. Dr. White stated that he is concerned about how the research budget is being spent. A discussion ensued about possible expenses in the future.

ITEM 4 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT – Mr. Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan reviewed the meetings he recently attended. He highlighted his involvement in the Education Forum meeting every week.

Ms. Donovan discussed the NASDTEC “Enhancing Troops to Teachers” grant. He discussed the general role that NASDTEC is expected to play. He stated that the challenge is how to identify quality alternative certification route programs. Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI was asked to comment on the Transition to Teaching grant program at MSU Bozeman.

Mr. Donovan provided a Montana Educator Forum update. He stated that they are hoping to focus on celebrating what is right with education and highlighting what is happening in education. Mr. Donovan suggested the closing performance that will feature children from the School for the Deaf and Blind performing “Expressions of Silence.” The Montana Educator Forum will be held Friday, September 30, 2005.

Mr. Donovan has been asked to be a state consultant at the UM NCATE Review in which he will be participating April 8-13, 2005.

Mr. Donovan alerted the council that three CSPAC positions would be expiring. He stated that he had visited with the people whose terms are expiring about submitting letters to the Board. There will be one opening on the CSPAC council. Applications are available on the BPE/CSPAC website. Dr. White added that he would like to discuss changing the bylaws to ensure that the Higher Education representative on the CSPAC council comes from the Council of Deans because the alliance that has been formed has been so powerful. Although the idea was popular, it would possibly require a change in statute that would be difficult to grant. Mr. Donovan stated that in the past the issue was brought up and a change in statute was attempted and did not pass at that time.

Mr. Donovan also reported on the grant meeting for the State Action for Education Leadership Program. He stated that Montana has received a follow-up grant sponsored by Wallace Reader’s Digest. He stated that the intent of the initial grant was to develop leadership among administrators in Montana. The second phase of the grant plans to create accreditation standards for administrators.

**ITEM 5 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE
Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson**

Mr. Donovan provided a summary of the NCTAF Regional Meeting. He stated that the most interesting discussion at the meeting focused on tiered teacher licensure models. He stated that though many states have tiered licensure programs, there is no reliable longitudinal data on whether or not these programs make an impact. CSPAC members discussed the costs involved in creating a tiered licensure program. They also briefly discussed the idea of a statewide salary schedule.

ITEM 6 LICENSURE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Doug Reisig

Dr. Reisig was absent due to a conflict with a RAC meeting. It was decided to report the recommendation for paraprofessional licensure to the Board. Dr. White provided new information on the CSPD at MSU Billings. He stated that they now have a tracking method that is providing information on paraprofessional reciprocity in the state.

ITEM 7 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Tonia Bloom

Ms. Gloria Curdy asked if there was any input the council would like to give to Ms. Bloom concerning the Professional Ethics Committee. The council discussed the necessity of reviewing the relationship between licensure and ethics. The council would like to see some discussion on where and how collaboration between various education stakeholders can occur to create a clear understanding of ethical standards and its relationship to licensure. Mr. Donovan suggested that the issue of ethics be added to the July agenda. The council agreed to invite a panel featuring Cathy Warhank from OPI, a member of the Montana School Boards Association, and Lynette Zuroff from the Council of Deans.

**ITEM 8 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL COMMITTEE REPORT
Ms. Charla Bunker**

No information was presented under this item.

**ITEM 9 PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT – Dr. George White**

Dr. Linda Peterson provided an update on the pilot Praxis testing project. She stated that the state's work with ETS continues as a work in progress. She stated that there was a minor glitch in the testing progress because OPI received the incorrect test and registration booklets. However, she stated that ETS is quickly responding to the mishap. She also stated that she estimates that 500 teacher candidates will be part of the upcoming Praxis testing pool. She stated that the window for pilot phase is until April 2006. She stated that the pilot testing taskforce will come together in May or June to begin to put data together. ETS will provide OPI with the results including current administrative reports, annual national statistics, and disaggregated scores by institution, gender, major, race, and LEP.

Dr. White provided a summary of the Council of Deans' position regarding Praxis testing. He stated that they do not want the test to be the single measure of determining certification eligibility. Dr. White stated that the primary purpose of the test is to give universities additional

information relating to the quality of educational programs and answer questions such as how do candidates perform in certain subsets and what can universities do to strengthen those areas of weak performance. Dr. Peterson stated that the one concern she has is that ETS views the Praxis test as a licensure test and it is not validated as a programmatic component.

Dr. White led the discussion of Chapter 57 draft Changes. He provided a historical overview of the issue. He stated that the Board was working with three teacher candidates with credentials pending due to questions regarding alternative certification routes. The Department of Education wanted the wording of Chapter 57 to be more concise. A committee gathered to address the loopholes in the language, and they presented their draft changes to the PEPPS rewrite committee. At the January CSPAC meeting, the suggested language changes were presented. However, there was not consensus regarding the language. On February 24, the committee met again and came to a consensus on the language.

Dr. White pointed out the key changes in the document. The first major change was under item 102.2. The item was changed to give the Board of Public Education the oversight capacity regarding teacher licensure. Also, the committee inserted “substantially equivalent or greater than” into the language. A third major change occurred at 102.14 (a). This item now states that a candidate must possess a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited program. Dr. White stated that all of the other language fits in and dovetails off these three decision points and compromises.

Dr. White motioned that the edits to 10.57.102 be moved forward to the Montana Board of Public Education for further review. Mr. McCulloch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. White stated that he would like to continue the discussion of Chapter 57 in order to see if the language changes were effective.

Dr. White made a motion to request a report from OPI reviewing the status of alternative route license applications to be built into the CSPAC calendar for the Spring meeting. Ms. Bloom seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. White welcomed Mr. Bob Runkel from OPI to discuss IDEA reauthorization. Mr. Runkel stated that the main issues of IDEA reauthorization were the testing of teachers, their qualifications, and reciprocity. He stated that these particular concerns are especially pertinent to special education teachers. He stated that the reciprocity of special education is a concern. Mr. Runkel stated that out-of-state teachers do not have the same background as Montana teachers. A third concern he had was regarding the reauthorization issue and the significant language change in the new federal law that will affect standards for special education teachers. He stated that based on the federal guidelines, a teacher does not need a special education credential to teach special education.

Mr. Runkel provided the council with an overview of the new language in IDEA. He stated that the new IDEA divides special educators into three types: those who teach kids with significant cognitive disabilities; those teachers who provide consultative services, but that do not provide core academic instruction; and those teachers providing multiple subject or a single subject

instruction. Mr. Runkel stated that the major change in law under IDEA was regarding multiple subject licensure. Multiple subject licensure can develop a H.O.U.S.S.E standard for all subject areas and evaluates teacher competences as a whole. He supported a new standard that would allow a teacher to be highly qualified in a broad field. He stated that all new trained teachers have to be qualified in one of the subject areas: language arts, math, or science. As long as a teacher qualified in one of those subject areas, the teacher can teach multiple subjects for the first two years. By the end of the two years the teacher must demonstrate that he/she is highly qualified in multiple subjects.

Mr. Runkel supported induction programs that provide on the job experience. Ms. Curdy asked if there should be an endorsement or certification for special education teachers in multiple subjects at the university level. Mr. Runkel replied that there needs to be a reengineering of educational degree programs that puts focus on a core academic subject and a major or a minor in special education.

Dr. White asked Mr. Runkel if, in the process of rewriting the PEPPS standards, there needs to be something added to the language concerning special education. Mr. Runkel stated that he believed that a collaborative model is important. He also stated that there needs to be a focus on the importance of knowledge in a core academic subject. He stated that there are lower expectations of kids with disabilities, and that educators need to push their students harder to achieve academic results.

Dr White asked Mr. Runkel if there was anything CSPAC needs to look at for in-service teachers in helping them meet the “highly qualified” definitions. Mr. Runkel stated that perhaps a continuing education in-service program for teachers would be helpful or a push for people to be involved in curriculum development. However, Mr. Runkel stressed the importance of looking at the natural environment of teachers for learning to occur.

Ms. Curdy asked Mr. Runkel about special education in rural schools. Mr. Runkel replied that what Montana is missing is a group of specialists. He supported a regionalized system that provides an infrastructure with a core set of specialists that could help teachers excel.

Dr. Linda Peterson provided an update on the PEPPS review. She reviewed the agenda of the February 28 meeting with council members. Mr. McCulloch inquired about the difference between learning technology and computer science. Discussion ensued between the difference between instructional technology and computer science endorsements. Mr. McCulloch stated that this issue deserves more attention later. Dr. Peterson stated that next the PEPPS subcommittee will make decisions on the format of the PEPPS and Procedures Manual and the proposed implementation manual. She stated that the group is moving towards using performance-based language. Dr. Peterson alerted the council to the next PEPPS meeting that will be held May 5, 2005 and she invited all council members to attend.

Dr. White gave an NCATE/TEAC update. He stated that the Chapter 57 language specifies that licensure can be granted to people who graduate from NCATE accredited schools. He stated that TEAC is not mentioned in the Chapter 57 language because there is a large organization in the state of Montana that will not support TEAC accreditation. Dr. White stated that those people that come from TEAC accredited schools may be considered under the “substantially equivalent” language found in Chapter 57.

ITEM 10 RESEARCH PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT – Scott McCulloch

Dr. White stated that in Ms. Dori Nielson’s study entitled *Who Will Teach Montana’s Children*, part of the data suggested that 70% of teachers prepared in Montana take positions out-of-state. He stated that Dr. Bob Carson has questioned the data on accuracy and that it may be out of date. Dr. White stated that MSU Billings data suggests that a much larger percentage of graduates are staying in Montana. Dr. White suggested that CSPAC commission another study to see if the trend of teachers going out-of-state has changed. CSPAC members requested that CSPAC staff prepare an RFP to present at the July meeting.

CSPAC members discussed the idea of doing a survey regarding IDEA reauthorization. However, it was decided that this might not be an issue and that they must wait until the letter from the Department of Education is received. Council members agreed to agenda it as an item for the July meeting.

Dr. White stated that the potential teacher shortage due to the retiring baby boom generation is also a problem in higher education. Dr. White stated that there is a large portion of higher education teachers that are reaching the retirement age and there has been a significant decrease in the number of applicants to fill their positions. He asked the question, “Who will prepare the teachers of tomorrow?” Mr. McCulloch requested that this issue be kept on the table for the fall joint meeting with the Council of Deans.

The council then discussed the idea of doing a report on developing a comprehensive data system to track how teaching candidates, upon entering the field, are impacting students. Higher Education institutions must begin to track this data. Mr. Donovan mentioned that a number of other states have funneled money into their P-20 data systems because the burden falls on the schools of Education to demonstrate how their candidates impact student learning in the K-12 arena. He suggested that CSPAC could look at other states data systems and examine how they are gathering information. Mr. Donovan also mentioned that OCHE, the Board of Regents, and the Board of Public Education were recently discussing the need to develop a comprehensive data system.

ITEM 11 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

Mr. Donovan reminded the council about the annual NASDTEC conference in San Antonio, TX to be held June 5-8, 2005. He requested that any council member who would like to go, to please alert him.

Mr. Donovan also announced the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future: Partner States’ Symposium in Denver, CO that will be held July 10-12, 2005.

ITEM 12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Orientation of new Council Members
- B. Elect Officers
- C. Committee Appointments
- D. Set items for newsletter and brochure
- E. Pictures for newsletter

- F. Plan for fall out-of-state conventions
- G. Set Calendar (Fall meeting with Deans)
- H. Goal Setting
- I. Panel Discussion on Ethics
- J. RFP draft
- K. IDEA Reauthorization

ITEM 13 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC

The council recognized Ms. Gloria Curdy, Chair, for her seven years of service on CSPAC.

ADJOURN

Ms. Curdy adjourned the meeting at 3:19PM.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may write or call: CSPAC, PO Box 200601, 2500 Broadway, Helena, MT 59620-0601, (406) 444-6576.