



**Department of Teacher Education & Leadership  
Professional Education Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 (3:30 p.m.) via Zoom  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** *Jonathan Ambrose, Beth Barlow, Carol Barnes, Stephanie Busbea, Michael Coco, Martha D'Amico, Anthony Goins, Stephanie Henderson, Tommye Henderson, Mario Keys, Jamilliah Longino, Charlotte Martin, Kristi Melancon, Emily Mulhollen, Rachel Peebles, Otis Pickett, Ted Poore, Brittany Ricker, Danny Rushing, Arlandra Scott, Cheryl Sheppard, Lauren Sitarz, Jennifer Stafford, Shirley Tipton, Zach Vosen, Melissa Wiggins, Renee Wilson, Emma Woolhouse*

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by TEL Department Chair, Stephanie Henderson. A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Mario Keys and seconded by Kristi Melancon. **Motion carried.** A motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting was made by Cheryl Sheppard and seconded by Michael Coco. **Motion carried.** Dr. Henderson reviewed the 2021-2022 PEAC Plans with the committee.

Dr. Henderson reviewed University and Department updates with the committee. Dr. Ambrose provided an update concerning campus operations pertaining to COVID-19 and campus renovations in Alumni Hall and the residence halls. Dr. Henderson shared that the University will be undergoing a SACSCOC accreditation visit in March of 2023. Also, Dr. Stephanie Carmicle is now serving as the Assistant Provost of Student Success in an effort to strengthen student support services across campus.

Department updates included an explanation of the COVID-19 Testing Waiver which expires December 31, 2021. Updated recruitment and enrollment numbers for the 2020-2021 academic year were shared. The Department has added a new certificate and degree program in Online Instruction and Design. The Special Education program is undergoing a revision based on changes to CEC Standards.

Dr. Rachel Peebles provided an update concerning field experiences. The Department continues to work well with several diverse partners in the Jackson-metro area. We are now back in schools in all of our placements and following the COVID guidelines of those schools.

Dr. Jennifer Stafford provided an update concerning the statewide assessments for Advanced Programs. Dr. Rachel Peebles and Dr. Martha D'Amico provided updates concerning the statewide assessments for Initial Programs.

Dr. D'Amico shared that the EPP had received full accreditation with any Areas for Improvement from CAEP as a result of the site visit held in November 2020. The next visit will be in Fall of 2027.

Dr. Peeples provided updates concerning NAEYC Accreditation. The annual report will be submitted in September of 2021.

Dr. Henderson asked committee members for their input related to the following discussion topics. Members could use the Google Form link to record responses if desired.

- **Discussion Topics (Google Form):**
  - What unique challenges are schools and districts facing that we can help address?
  - How can the EPP revise recruitment efforts to attract diverse candidates for all programs?
  - How can we better prepare candidates for the reality of virtual learning?
  - How can we better meet the needs of Education Leaders?

Some responses given during the meeting were:

- Social and emotional support for teachers is needed as a result of the demands of COVID, virtual learning, etc.
- Brookhaven School District has established a New Teacher Network that has been really beneficial. Maybe this model could be expanded across districts and spearheaded by the EPP.
- Teachers need training pertaining to the ethical use of social media platforms.
- Teachers continue to need any professional development on virtual learning.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.