At 4:30 PM, Dr. Yancey Watkins called the general session of the ECE Advisory Council to order. In attendance were program coordinators, directors and team members representing each of these advisory councils within the department: Elementary Education, Reading, and Library/Media.

General Session Activities:

1. Dr. Russ Wall, Interim Dean, delivered welcoming remarks and thanked council members for their current and future service to the College of Education.
2. Dr. Yancey Watkins, Interim Chair of the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, shared his vision of the role of advisory councils in the continued improvement of the ECE Department programs.
3. Dr. Johan Koren and Dr. Jacqueline Hansen invited council members to introduce themselves by stating their full name, academic position, and anecdotal comments about an inspirational educator.
4. Dr. Jacqueline Hansen correlated member’s inspirational educator comments with the vision depicted in the College of Education’s Conceptual Framework and Student Dispositions.
5. Dr. Jacqueline Hansen has developed a departmental Blackboard site to facilitate the dissemination of advisory council information and the communication process between council members. She demonstrated how to access and use this site.

Council members enjoyed a South of the Border Dinner before reconvening in small advisory council sessions. The elementary advisory council met in AL 2204. Dr. Jacqueline Hansen called the meeting to order at 5:55 PM.

Attending council members were:
Dr. Jacqueline Hansen, Elementary Program Coordinator, MSU Asst. Prof.
Penny Perkins: MSU Distinguished Practitioner
Martha Lewis: Benton Elementary Principal
Peggy Marler: Graves County Elementary Teacher, Graduate Student
Hannah Johnson: Murray Elementary Teacher, Graduate Student
Melissa Duffy: MSU Undergraduate Student

Anne Herndon, East Calloway Elementary Principal, was unable to attend. She will join us throughout the year via Blackboard, however.

First, members shared personal information to become better acquainted. Then, they brainstormed ideas related to this question: What are the personal qualities, professional knowledge, and skills of an ideal elementary teacher? Collective responses included:
**Personal Qualities:** kind, communicator, challenges students, loves children, excited, dedicated, uses standard English

**Professional Knowledge:** content area knowledge, KERA connections and assessment (Core Content, Program of Studies, CATS, open response items, portfolios, on-demand writing)

**Skills:** disciplinarian, classroom management, assessment, organizational

Initial Council Suggestions for Elementary Program Improvement:

1. Integrate assessment into all of the coursework. Don’t wait until EDU 383 to teach it all at once at the end of the students’ academic coursework.
2. Create a required course on classroom management. Students are traditionally weak in this area and need to be better prepared to meet the needs of children the first day of their first year teaching.

To continue the conversation throughout the year, Jacqueline will post weekly discussion topics on Blackboard. Team members are invited to respond and reply to teammates’ comments to create a shared vision for program improvement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jacqueline Hansen  
Elementary Program Coordinator.