Department Meeting

Early Childhood and Elementary Education
2104 Alexander Hall
September 23, 2003
11:00 till 11:50 a.m.

Agenda

Attendance: Dr. Yancey Watkins, Mr. Greg Gierhart, Dr. Jacqueline Hansen, Dr. Bonnie Higginson, Dr. Chhanda Islam, Dr. Johan Koren, Ms. Penny Perkins, Dr. Jo Robertson, Dr. Joyce Shatzer, Ms. Sue Smith and Ms. Marla Smith

Absent: Dr. Joe Baust, Dr. Sharon Gill, and Dr. Joan Niffenegger

1. Call to order: Dr. Yancey Watkins

2. Minutes from last meeting: approved

3. Praxis II Report:
   - Dr. Watkins asked Ms. Penny Perkins to make a short Praxis Test Presentation. Sample questions were viewed on overheads and there was discussion emphasizing that students need to manage their time wisely when taking the test. A handout was distributed.
   - Dr. Watkins stated that the department will probably purchase some of the books by Barron for each area in ECE including the Media Library.
   - Dr. Robertson stated that IECE majors are not required to take this Praxis test.
   - The next Praxis Exam is scheduled for November 15\textsuperscript{th}. Each session will be for two hours. The first session for students on Testing Information will be October 29\textsuperscript{th} and second session on Content Review will be on November 5\textsuperscript{th} which will cover math, science, reading, social studies and language arts.
   - Beginning with the September 13\textsuperscript{th} Praxis Test, students may receive feedback indicating strengths and weaknesses that their test revealed.
   - There was discussion that the Praxis test should be taken earlier and that the blocking process should be earlier in order to identify weaknesses and assist these students to be successful.

4. Advising Center and advising process:
   This process is being looked at and some changes will probably be initiated in the near future.
5. NCATE Standard 6: Graduate Advising Forms/Guide Sheets will be examined in the next meeting. These forms should be submitted the first semester that a student is admitted.
   - Guide Sheet – plan classes between student and advisor
   - Advisor – assist students to complete and submit the official copy of the Program Form
   - When 9 hours of credit are completed at MSU a Candidacy Form should be completed. It was stated that it would be helpful to include a code on the form indicating unconditional admittance
   - Location of files for COE Masters Degrees:
     Alesa Walker takes care of 5th year and + 30 files planned programs
     The Registrar’s office takes care of files for the Masters Degree programs.

6. Advisory Committees Report:
   Need to set up a small Advisory Committee that will consist of knowledgeable people in the education area. This committee will meet during the day because it is difficult for teachers to attend during school hours. It was recommended that we have one face-to-face meeting in the Fall of each year and that committees communicate electronically for additional meetings.

7. Mid-semester courses: enrollment is down and the education department has been asked to offer some mid-semester courses to generate enrollment. These courses will begin Oct.15th and will be offered for 3 hours of credit. In order to meet the three-hour requirement in this length of time, some instruction will be offered electronically. Dr. Watkins asked that any faculty member interested in these offerings contact him ASAP and added that a course previously designed with electronic instruction would be ideal to offer as a mid-semester course.

8. ELE 647 (ITV, June); Summer 2004: A instructor is needed to teach this curriculum course that Dr. Hooks has taught in the past.

9. Other business:

   Dr. Price has drafted a memo for Dr. Brockway to enclose with proposal packet to the Council for Post Secondary Education to change the IECE undergraduate program from and option in elementary to stand alone major. When we receive approval, we hope to take this program to the Henderson and Madisonville Regional Campus.

   Please let Nancy know which evaluation form you want your students to complete for Fall 2003 evaluations.

10. Adjournment
Information Items

- Congratulations to Bonnie Higginson who was elected to a three-year term as Director on the Board of the College Reading Association.
- Faculty members are encouraged to take the Praxis II and PLT.
- Thanks to Dr. Kim and her associates for doing a great job with the Student Professional Organizations Orientation.
- Comprehensive Examinations, November 8th.
- See Charlotte Bradshaw about KATE Professional Development sessions during October and November.
- **Celebrate Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month**
  - Wednesday, September 24: Stand and Deliver
  - Monday, September 29: Victim of Two Cultures: Richard Rodriguez
  - Wednesday, October 1: Study Abroad in Spain
- We are planning to offer the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education program at our regional campuses in Henderson and Madisonville hopefully beginning in the spring.

Presentations/Publications/Chairpersons

**Jackie Hansen**


**Bonnie Higginson**

Higginson, B. C., Stone, S., & Liljequist, L. (2003, November). Shoutin’ About the Book: Student Perceptions of a Freshman Reading Experience. To be presented at the College Reading Association Annual Conference, Corpus Christi, TX.

Smith, L., Higginson, B., & Prince, A. (2004, May). Comprehension Study in Middle Level Content Instruction. To be presented at the International Reading Association Annual Convention, Reno, NV.

**Chhanda Islam**

Presentation at the 49th Annual Convention of the International Reading Association. Reno-Tahoe, Nevada May 2-9, 2004
Presentation at the 47th Annual Meeting of the College Reading Association, October 30- November 2, 2003
Presentation at the Second International Seminar on Learning and Motivation, October 13-15, 2003, Penang, University Utara Malaysia
**Joann Niffenegger**  
Program Co-Chairperson (with Hansen, M.) Western Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education (WKAECE). Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky, September 13, 2004.

**Jo Robertson**  

September 2, 2003 Paducah Sun featured Discover magazine. I was interviewed for an article on childcare. Pam Babcock, First Steps Parent Consultant, was interviewed on early intervention services.