

Teacher Education Department Meeting Minutes

Date: August 7, 2026

Recorded by: Whitney Pope

Department Values Discussion

The department reflected on the core values that guide its work and culture:

- Strong departmental relationships and a supportive environment.
 - Commitment to the mentor-led model and maintaining its effectiveness.
 - Consideration of how the mentor-led model can be adapted within MAT programs that have multiple entry points.
 - Faculty support one another and share responsibilities.
 - Collaborative approach to teaching, service, and program development.
 - Commitment to preparing high-quality teacher candidates.
 - Strong investment in students and the mission of the College of Education.
 - Highly involved faculty who prioritize student success.
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Assessment Debrief

College of Education Assessment Meeting Follow-Up

- Faculty discussed extending College of Education assessment meetings to include dedicated program-level working time.
- Preference was expressed for incorporating working sessions into existing meetings rather than creating additional meetings.

Assessment Reporting

- Dr. Newton shared that planning is underway for CAPE-related assessment processes.
 - The Assessment Office is expected to assist with PRS3 and 3R3 reporting requirements.
 - Faculty discussed the possibility of streamlining assessment processes and sought clarification on future plans.
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Department Announcements

Bobcats in the Building Initiative

Discussion centered on increasing the visibility of the College of Education and supporting recruitment efforts.

Topics discussed:

- Organizing visits to schools involving junior and senior students.
- Potential scheduling challenges due to Wellness Days and Research Days.
- Alternative options such as hosting evening school events (e.g., STEM Nights).
- Involving mentor leaders in event planning.
- Determining the primary goals of the initiative:
 - Recruitment
 - Increased visibility within partner schools
 - Exposure to a variety of school settings
- Consideration of whether participation should include:
 - Junior-level students only
 - EDUC/Pre-Education students

Action: Dr. Sartin will continue coordinating and developing plans for the initiative.

Center for Teaching and Learning Updates

General Updates

- The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) shared upcoming professional development opportunities.
- Faculty were encouraged to learn more about creating accessible course materials.
- Blackboard Ally was highlighted as a resource for improving accessibility compliance.

Upcoming Trainings

August 11, 2026

- Brightspace Essentials Training
- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- In-person only

August 26, 2026

- Blackboard Ally Training
- 2:00 p.m.
- 1-hour session

August 28, 2026

- Blackboard Ally Training
- Noon
- Hybrid format (in-person and remote)
- 1-hour session

Additional Information

- AI tools are expected to support WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standards.
 - CTL will launch a dashboard to assist faculty with accessibility monitoring and compliance.
 - Dashboard implementation is anticipated by Spring 2027 (April 2027 target).
 - Alex Berglund serves as the College of Education CTL representative.
 - College of Education-specific Brightspace training opportunities are available.
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Upcoming Events

First-Generation Education (FGE) Day

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026

- Keisha Foston shared information regarding the upcoming FGE Day event.
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Graduate Student Graduation Applications

Discussion focused on ensuring graduate students complete graduation application requirements and paperwork in a timely manner.

Follow-Up Needed:

- Review current processes for monitoring graduation application completion.
 - Determine additional communication or tracking methods if needed.
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Graduate Program Dismissal Policies

Elementary MAT Program

- Faculty discussed whether an Elementary MAT dismissal policy is needed.

Graduate Programs Review

- Suggestion made to hold a future meeting to review dismissal policies across all graduate programs for consistency and alignment.

Action Item:

- Schedule discussion to review graduate dismissal policies across programs.
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Sensory Room Updates

Access and Maintenance

- Door code should be changed at the beginning of each semester.
- Updated code should be posted in the College of Education Hub.

Room Expectations

- Add signage reminding users to:
 - Clean up after themselves.
 - Dispose of trash appropriately.

Feedback Collection

- Share information about the Sensory Room through the department survey.

Responsible Party: Melissa Martino

Action Items Summary

Action Item	Responsible Party
Continue planning and coordinating the Bobcats in the Building initiative	Dr. Sartin
Clarify streamlined assessment and reporting plans	Dr. Newton / Assessment Office
Review process for graduate student graduation applications	Program Faculty
Schedule review of graduate dismissal policies across all programs	Department Leadership
Change Sensory Room door code each semester and update CoE Hub	Appropriate Staff
Add cleanup and trash-disposal signage to Sensory Room	Appropriate Staff
Include Sensory Room information in department survey	Melissa Martino

Meeting Adjourned.