Published Meeting Minutes:

Department of Teacher Education Department Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 16, 2026

Opening

- Department members recognized and celebrated **Boss's Day**.

Resources to Share

- Resources were shared among faculty members.

Good News

- **Family STEAM Night** was highlighted as a success and supported through grant funding.
- Faculty were invited to share additional good news and updates.

Search Committee Updates

Secondary Education Search

- The position will remain open for an additional week.
- The committee met to finalize details of the search process.
- There are currently **23 applicants**.

Special Education Search

- A candidate will be on campus for an interview on Wednesday.
- The search committee is checking references

Assessment and Accreditation Search

- **22 applications** were received.
- Only **two candidates** were identified as viable applicants.
- Zoom interviews will be scheduled for those candidates.

Artificial Intelligence Discussion & Game

- Faculty participated in an AI-related activity/game.
- Discussion centered on how this activity could be incorporated into EDUC courses.
- Faculty were encouraged to model appropriate AI use and explore applications across different content areas.

Field Placement (FP) Process Meeting – Meeting TBD

Strategic Plan Discussion

Faculty discussed areas for consideration in the department's strategic planning process, including:

- Identifying potential gaps in support for faculty well-being.
- Addressing workload concerns across departments.
- Removing barriers related to advising loads and faculty performance processes.
- Evaluating the role and continuation of community partnerships.
- Reviewing SMART goals and annual reports.
- Expanding opportunities for graduate students to present at conferences.
- Increasing faculty presentations and scholarly engagement.
- Reviewing the previous year's strategic plan goals as a foundation for developing current goals.

GACE Scores and Testing Requirements

Elementary Education

- Discussion focused on monitoring GACE scores and testing attempts.
- Suggested practice: Students upload documentation of their final test attempt as an assignment in D2L during their final course.
- Encouragement for students to complete all required attempts.

Program and Faculty Capacity Concerns

- **Nicole** and **Kim** discussed enrollment and faculty workload considerations.
- Concerns were raised that faculty counts may be misleading because many faculty members teach across both undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Examples discussed:
    - MED faculty are assigned to graduate programs but also carry undergraduate teaching responsibilities.
    - Special Education faculty support both their own cohorts and undergraduate programs.
- Current enrollment and cohort numbers may not accurately reflect faculty workload capacity.

Faculty expressed concerns and requested clarification regarding:

- Total enrollment calculations across all programs.
- How enrollment figures will be used in planning and assessment.
- Faculty supervision assignments.
- Shared-service programs such as Literacy and Special Education that support multiple programs.
- The inability to count faculty members multiple times across programs they serve.
- Access to updated graduate program enrollment numbers.
- The factors used to determine enrollment targets.

Additional Program Considerations

- Discussion included PSC testing requirements for Elementary Education.
- Topics mentioned included:
    - Elementary content assessments.
    - Science and Reading assessments.
    - Reading endorsement requirements.
    - B.S. in Special Education pathways.

DEAL Grants

- DEAL grant opportunities were discussed.

Compliance and Accessibility Training

Compliance Training

- Compliance training is due in **November**.

Course Content Accessibility

- Accessibility requirements for course content in D2L are due by **March 15, 2027**.
- Questions were raised about completing accessibility updates in phases, beginning with Summer and Fall courses.
- Spring 2027 courses were noted as not being subject to the current deadline.
- Faculty were reminded that hidden files can negatively affect accessibility scores.

Curriculum Changes

Multi-Campus Curriculum Changes

- Proposed terminology changes were presented for Elementary Education programs.
- Recommendation: Change references from **"Early Elementary"** to **"Elementary Education."**
- Motion by **Previts**; second received.
- Vote: **11 in favor**. Motion passed.

EDUC 2120

- Course title change was discussed and approved. Removed ‘Diversity’. New title is **Exploring Socio-Cultural Perspectives**

Special Topics Course

- **Gillespie** proposed revised language to broaden the course topic description.
- Motion by **Previts**; second received.
- Vote: **11 in favor**. Motion passed.

Adjournment
The meeting concluded following curriculum discussions and departmental updates.