**Continuous Improvement Documentation/Minutes**  
**PROGRAM/EPP:** Middle Grades Program  
**Meeting Date:** Friday, October 11, 2019  
**Members Present:** Desha Williams, Joanne Previts, Mike Newton, Miriam Jordan, and Nancy Mizelle

### Assessment Changes/Modifications

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<th>Assessment/Objective</th>
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| Reestablish relationship with A&S faculty who teach courses for Middle Grades teacher candidates  
  - Share updates and concerns  
  - Share assessments  
  - Share data  
  - Determine any changes that need to be made | This relationship needs to be revived to include new faculty and to ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of candidates | The Interim Dean for A&S has asked to meet with the COE Administration and so this Objective will be put on hold until after than meeting and the MG Program is given permission to move forward with contacting A&S faculty about a meeting. | This Objective is on hold. When the Middle Grades faculty is given permission to move forward, the timeline for completion will be modified. | The Program plans to hold one meeting with A&S faculty before the end of the semester. |
| Revisit MAT assessments and revise as needed | Completion of the FY19 SMART report revealed that some of the MAT assessments had drifted and were not assessing candidates on AMLE standards as expected. | Faculty determined that changes were needed so that MAT candidates were being assessed with the same assessments as the Initial candidates | Faculty teaching MAT courses agreed to make changes where possible given the semester had started and concluded to do a comprehensive review of the MAT assessments toward the end of the | Meeting on October 30 with faculty teaching MAT courses. |
- Convert the Middle Grades M.Ed. program to a fully online format to offer as an additional option.

- Work with Shanda to ensure that we recruit at least 6 M.Ed candidates for the 2020-2021 cohort.

- Enrollment in the program continues to be low. This move is being made to encourage program growth.

- At least 6 candidates are needed to make the program feasible.

- Shanda will focus on recruiting specifically for that program; Nancy will actively recruit across the state.

- The content of the program will remain; the format will change.

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- Email will be sent to Middle Grades principals statewide; formerly accepted students will be contacted.

- Thinking about this change will begin in spring, 2020, but work on changes will occur no earlier than summer 2020 to prepare for implementation in summer 2021.

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- This action will take place in close collaboration with our Early Childhood colleagues so that we can maintain the current cross-listed courses that support both programs.

- Email will be sent to Middle Grades principals statewide; formerly accepted students will be contacted.

- Beginning in January applicants will be monitored through data from Graduate Admissions.

Middle Grades Education Program  
October 11, 2019  
9:00 – 10:50 am  
Meeting Minutes

Housekeeping
1. Timekeeper: Miriam
2. Minutes: Joanne

Focus for Today:
1. Middle Grades M.Ed. program – transition to online – update  
   - Timeline:
MG and EC faculty will work collaboratively to transform courses to “totally” online so we can begin in summer 2021
- MG: will run blended format for summer 2020, only if we have at least 6 students
  - Recruitment: Working with Shanda so that she visits middle schools as well as phone, e-mail, and send materials to middle schools

2. Supervision of candidates during field placement and internship:
- Desha stated this will be reviewed during the department meeting

3. Grant
- Middle Grades Program, in collaboration with Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), received Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grant
- 5 year grant
- 10/23 webinar meeting
- Week of 28th (date TBD)

4. Searches
- #1 (lecture) Nancy, Joanne, and Doris
- #2 (grant) Nancy, Miriam, and Joanne will ask Chris Greer if he will serve as outside member

5. New Policies and Directives

**Undergraduate Initial Certification**

1. Tours for potential undergrads/individual faculty webpages
- Students can visit campus, and if interested in education, they can sign-up and take a tour of Kilpatrick
  - Shaundra Walker (library):
    - will take information from us and create personal web pages for faculty
    - Desha will contact Shaundra to determine if Shaudra would like to be at a program or department meeting to facilitate the process of faculty sending information to her so she can develop the web pages.

2. Dyslexia – Awareness of: PSC writing a rule
- Being asked to tell our students to be aware of dyslexia yet teachers are not to diagnose
- Define dyslexia, identify dyslexia, refer for diagnosis
- Reading Course and Special Education courses – scaffold content in those two courses
- Dyslexia Grant (Stacy)
- PSC: endorsement is in draft form; rule is being written
- Undergraduate initial certification program limited to 120 hours
  - If ESOL endorsement is added, additional hours are permitted because the program is no longer a “basic program” it would be considered a “dual program” yet we don’t know how many additional hours are permitted
  - In department meeting, we will devise plans for how to address
- 120 hours for MG
  - Plan for cutting 9 hours (if nothing changes in the core)
  - EDUC courses: considered part of the core, Area F classes (associated with your major)
Meta-major – 9 hours as freshmen
  - BOR: 9 hours during freshman year, not required by the major yet related to the major
    - Education: we would determine the three courses all education majors would need to take (each discipline would identify the courses needed for the major)
  - Core: timeline has been extended to fall of 2021 for implementation

MAT Initial Certification
1. Pedagogy only route to certification has been approved
   - Purpose: TAP requirements and higher ed requirements varied; this initiative was to bring higher ed requirements more in alignment with TAP requirements
   - One content area only – 15 hours of content
   - Possibly link to our regular M. Ed. Program
   - BOR dictates hours:
     - Typically, 21 hours: certification
     - 30 - 36 hours: Master’s degree
   - PSC does not dictate hours, they establish what is needed for certification

Goal(s) for Fall Semester:
  - Reestablish relationship with Arts & Sciences faculty
  - Revisit MAT assessments and revise as needed

Upcoming Events
AMLE – November 7-9, 2019
Next Meeting:
Thursday, October 31st at 9:00 am