

Professional Education Advisory Council*

Purpose:

The Professional Education Advisory Council (PEAC) has three major roles and responsibilities:

(1) To be informed of and respond to educational policy focused on the educator preparation.

This role involves providing leadership to ensure that the university stays informed about and responds appropriately to federal and state educational policies (i.e. No Child Left Behind, the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act, Professional Standards Commission policies, Board of Regents, etc.) that impact the preparation and induction of educators.

(2) To provide leadership for issues related to educator preparation within the university across the Colleges of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

This second role is to identify and address issues and projects across UGA's educator preparation programs, working within subgroups, and suggesting policy changes where appropriate. The Council will develop a 3-year timeline or strategic plan to address issues facing educator preparation at UGA. Examples of such issues include recruitment and retention of diverse candidates, availability and scheduling of courses, establishment of school partnerships across programs, consistency of procedures across programs, and coordinating efforts across programs and colleges.

(3) To provide leadership in the assessment and accreditation of educator preparation programs at UGA.

The final role of the Council is to provide leadership in substantive educational issues related to assessment and accreditation such as curriculum, diversity, technology, and field placements to ensure regular self-assessment and improvement of its programs as well as continued state and national accreditation.

Composition:

The composition of this council would total approximately 27 members with representatives from the following disciplines (including associate deans) with other faculty invited when their expertise is required:

- One representative from each of the major disciplines in Arts & Sciences (arts including art, dance, and music; English, foreign languages, math, science, social science) as well as programs in Agricultural Education and Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Program coordinators from the College of Education (early childhood education, foreign language education, English education, gifted and creative education, mathematics education, middle school education, physical education, reading education, science education, social studies education, special education, communication sciences and disorders, career and technical education, technology integration, educational leadership, school library media, school psychology, school counseling).
- A representative from the COE Student Services Office.
- A representative from the professional core courses ((SPED 2000, EDIT 2000, EFND 2030, EPSY 2020) required of undergraduate students.

- A representative from P-12 schools and additional representatives to be selected by program coordinators as needed.

Leadership:

- The PEAC would be co-convened by an associate dean in the arts & sciences who is responsible for partnerships with the college of education and the associate dean for students, curriculum, and accreditation in the college of education.
- An executive committee comprised of the two associate deans and three faculty members will coordinate and review activities of the council and set meeting agendas.
- Staff support for taking minutes, arranging meetings, etc. will be provided by the dean's office in the College of Education.

Meetings:

The PEAC would meet at least two times per semester at a regularly set time during the academic year. Sub-committees (see below) would meet outside these meetings and report back to the whole group.

Policy Recommendations:

Any recommendations that would potentially result in policy changes would go through regular administrative channels with the associate deans taking the recommendations to their respective administrative units for consideration and approval.

Committee Structure:

A standing committee structure would be developed to accomplish work outside these regular meetings. The number and purpose of the committees will be determined by PEAC members, but initially may include the following:

- Assessment Committee to oversee the assessment of the professional education programs, to provide oversight to the COE's assessment system, and to suggest databased program improvements where necessary.
- Policy Committee to stay informed of current educational policy focused on educator preparation and draft responses to pending legislation at state and national level as an attempt to influence policy.
- Professional Core Course Committee to make recommendations for the professional core courses. This committee would assist the College arrange the alignment of these courses to national standards, coordinate field experiences within these courses, and assess the extent to which the courses meet the needs of students in preparing them for P-12 schools.

*This document, based on the recommendations of the *Report of the Committee to Develop an Office of Professional Education* submitted to Dean Castenell, June 15, 2004, was developed to launch the UGA Professional Education Advisory Council as the starting point for the work of this group. It is expected that as the Council begins its work, it will develop a more extensive governance document to guide the work.