Minutes: Susan Cahill

1. Introductions

2. Review/Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2013

3. Status of 2013-2014 Endorsement Program Re-approvals (Dana Edward)

The first three endorsement re-approval applications, Mathematics, English Language Arts and Reading, have been sent to the Professional Education Standards Board (PESB).

The next three endorsement re-approvals that need to be completed are Middle-Level Humanities, Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. Social Studies majors who wish to add Middle-Level Humanities will be required to take ENG 436 – The Structure of English. This will better prepare them to teach English in the middle school setting. Dana provided a complete listing of endorsements offered and the Review Cycle for each.
4. NES Content Test: Timeline, Applicability, Resources (Dana Edward)

Different content area tests are being offered starting 9/1/2014 for five endorsements. These tests will take the place of the WEST-E. They are through the same test vendor, National Evaluation Systems – Pearson. The difference is that they are standardized tests aligned with Common Core standards and being used by many different states. Although not universally used by all fifty states they will make it easier for teachers who have taken and passed the test in one state to move to another state without having to take a different content knowledge test.

A question was raised regarding academic supports in place for these high-stakes content tests. Currently students who do not pass the test(s) on their first attempt are advised by Dana who reviews the test Content Domain Performance to discover where additional preparation may be necessary. Referrals are then given to the Department Chair, academic area, etc.

Although 93% of WWU students pass the test on their first attempt there is a good deal of test anxiety that precedes the testing experience. A suggestion was made to reach out to the Learning Commons / Tutoring Center to offer Content Knowledge test preparation sessions.

Marc Geisler suggested that the students who do not pass and are referred to the academic department advisor receive a form with the Content Domain Performance noted to aid in additional advising efforts. At a future meeting Marc would like a follow-up discussion regarding Content Domain Performance, Content Area Test preparation and remediation.

5. Collaborative Work Across Disciplines (Karen Dade, Associate Dean)

The group stressed the need for timely communication regarding any course changes that are or may be considered in the future; “before the forms arrive in someone’s email;” a notification that “we are actively considering X.” Changes for fall need to be initiated prior to the February 15th deadline for changes. Woodring needs to constantly be considering the question of “who is this change going to affect.” Dana and Karen both said they would facilitate a discussion of this issue with Woodring Chairs and Directors.

6. Items from Commission Members

A discussion was initiated regarding Common Core endorsement standards and that they are causing anxiety in the K-12 arena. There are conferences being offered by OSPI within the K-12 system to try to address this. The main concern seems to be regarding changing expectations in the classroom that have not been communicated by OSPI to the school districts.

Dana also showed the group the PESB’s Announcement Board website with announcements and proposed changes to procedures, policies and WAC language with commentary options. Higher Ed. faculty and staff can also sign up to receive targeted email from PESB that matches their educational role.

7. Meeting adjourned 4:12 p.m.

Attachments:
  PESB Endorsement Competencies 2012 – 2019 Review Cycle and Status
  National Evaluation Series (NES) tests to replace some WEST-E tests