Professional Education Advisory Board
For School Counseling
Western Washington University

Meeting Date: November 6, 2012
Time: 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Place: AIC 433

Members present: Dave Berger, Patti Hoelzle, Toby Marston, Annie Racicot, Rob McElroy,
Erin Shaffer, Diana Gruman, Eric Paige

Members absent:

Ex-Officio members present: Arleen Lewis, Karen Dade, Cindy Savage

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm.

1. New members welcome and introductions
A warm welcome was given to Rob McElroy, Executive Administrator on Special Assignment,
from the Bellingham School District and Karen Dade, new Associate Dean of the Woodring
College of Education.

2. Election of a new Board President
Annie Racicot was elected as new Board President.

3. Approval of minutes from 5/21/12 meeting
Toby moved and it was seconded that the PEAB approve the May 21, 2012 meeting minutes.
They were unanimously approved.

4. Announcements from PEAB members & School counseling faculty search update
Members discussed current news at their worksites. Diana discussed the current counseling
faculty search. Recruitment began in September of this year for an Assistant Professor in
Counselor Education to begin September 2013. New this year, the search includes phone
interviews of top candidates and their references. Diana expected the committee to have a list of
top candidates ready for faculty review at the end of November and hopes to invite top
applicants to visit campus in January.

5. Employment status of recent graduates and description of the new cohort
Diana shared that four of our recent school counseling graduates were working in counseling
related fields, one was employed as a special education teacher and the last one’s employment
status was unknown. The new cohort includes five females and one male. They are currently
taking courses in preparation for their practicum experience in our Counseling Training Clinic
starting winter quarter. The second year counseling students are all actively involved in their
internships on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with classes on campus Tuesdays and
Thursdays.

6. Response to PEAB suggestions from last spring (Diana)
Diana discussed the need for more formative assessments. While the program makes regular
“check-ins” with students it may be advisable to ask them to rate program competencies early in the 2nd year in case students believe that they are missing key experiences. Another issue concerns the need to address multicultural issues more comprehensively. The faculty is planning a special awareness training for all first year students and counseling faculty early in winter quarter. The film, “The Color of Fear” will be viewed by the students and faculty as a way of introducing difficult dialogues and challenges.

7. Updates from Woodring—including NCATE and State visits (Karen Dade, Associate Dean, Woodring)
Karen shared her report from the State visit last Spring. All PEAB standards had been met. The Woodring College is pleased with the outcome and looking forward.

8. Program assessment update (NCC and CACREP surveys) (Arleen)
Arleen discussed the results from the NCE, a voluntary assessment that most program graduates take in the spring. It provides summary results and comparison information for all CACREP programs. As in the past, WWU grads performed extremely well, averaging approximately 1 standard deviation above the mean on all subtests. Arleen will be preparing a narrative document that summarizes the result of the program evaluation data collected in the spring. The report will be available to all Board members prior to the next meeting. Diana discussed that she was piloting a grant funded project at Washington School which allowed counselors to convene and discuss issues relevant to their jobs.

9. Proposal from the PESB on a required PRAXIS II exam for SC Students (Diana/Arleen)
Diana discussed the move to create a new assessment requirement by the WA Professional Education Standards Board for school counseling programs. The Praxis II is being proposed to assure baseline competency of school counselors. Arleen noted that the Praxis II has been an alternative assessment for counselors coming from out of state who didn’t have a comprehensive examination as part of their master’s programs. The consensus of the group after some discussion was the exam would not meet the goal of assuring baseline competency since it was not designed with the Washington standards in mind. There was concern that this would be “one more test” that students were expected to pass which wouldn’t necessarily show their acquired skills as a counselor. Arleen and Diana agreed to draft a letter to go to the Standards Board. Annie Racicot, as the new PEAB chair, expressed interested in being involved in sending the letter.

10. Professional Certification program update (Diana)
Diana shared examples of final projects of several Professional Certification students. She discussed the advantages of streamlining the standards from twelve down to six.

11. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2012-13 and Decision

Second Meeting: Tuesday, February 5---3:30-5:00pm
(Faculty Visit & PEAB Standards Review)

Third Meeting: Tuesday, April 16th  3:30-5:00 pm
(Student Interviews)

Fourth Meeting: May 21st 3:30-5:00pm
(Review Interviews and Make Program Recommendations)
12. New Business

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Items distributed at meeting:

- Minutes of 5/21/12 meeting
- NCE exam results
- Professional certificate final project examples