

## **Advisory Board Minutes**

**Meeting, November 2, 2021**

**3:30 P.M.**

The NWOSU Division of Education Advisory Board met Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 3:30 P.M., via Zoom. Those in attendance were advisory board members Mr. Dudley Darrow, Dr. DaLana Hawkins, Mrs. Karen Koehn, Mrs. Michelle McDonald. Those in attendance from NWOSU were Dr. Martie Young, Dr. Christie Riley, and Dr. Christee Jenlink.

- **Recruitment**

Board members stated the CAP initiative (for those going through the alternative certification pathway) and collaboration with the TEACH Oklahoma program were positive steps in the recruitment of teacher candidates. Discussion ensued regarding other possible recruitment strategies, but no specific initiatives were presented.

- **Retention**

Board members focused on the dispositional aspects needed for candidates to be successful educators as they believe emphasis upon dispositions will lead to candidate retention. According to board members, preparing teacher candidates to have professional dispositions provides the “foundations of teaching”. Dispositions discussed included candidates having a “heart for kids” and understanding the importance of building positive relationships with learners. Flexibility was another essential educator disposition mentioned.

- **Educator preparation programs under attack**

Discussion regarding this issue was folded into the discussions of recruitment and retention. Board members expressed concern about the number of individuals in classrooms who are not prepared to meet the needs of today’s learners due to the teacher shortage.

- **What do we need to change?**

This agenda item was addressed in the areas of recruitment, retention, and certification items.

- **Online Programs**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not brought forth but will be carried over to the next advisory board meeting.

- **Certification Testing**

Board members are in support of eliminating required certification tests for individuals who complete an accredited educator preparation program. A discussion ensued regarding comparison of data available from the TLE and teacher retention rate to compare the effectiveness of those who have completed an educator preparation program and those who earn certification through the alternative pathway. The validity and reliability of those two measures are questionable, according to advisory board members, thus, the value of a comparison is minimal. A concern was expressed regarding the burden placed upon PK-12 schools to assist individuals going through the alternative pathway to pass the PPAT assessment.

- **NWOSU 2022-2027 Strategic Plan**

Board members were informed the university will be seeking their input regarding the NWOSU 2022-2027 strategic plan. They will be provided a draft of the plan so they can provide feedback. The draft will be sent in December 2021 or January 2022.

- **Other**

A board member asked that the Division of Education review the policy prohibiting candidates from student teaching in their home town, particularly those who complete the TEACH Oklahoma program.

Advisory board members were apprised of financial incentives for teacher candidates. NWOSU is providing incentives to secondary education and special education candidates at two matriculation points in the educator preparation program. The Oklahoma State Department of Education is providing a stipend of \$1625 for each student teacher during the professional semester and an additional \$1625 upon signing a contract to teach in an Oklahoma public school.

No further business was conducted so the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M. The next meeting of the advisory board will be in the spring semester.