

Undergraduate Council Meeting February 4, 2005

Members Present: J. Arhar, C. Bersani, D. Bruce, A. Crowe, G. Davis, A. Gilbert, G. Haber, T. Kandakai, W. Kist, A. McClelland, A. Morrison, L. Zions, B. Brooks, C. Snyder, D. Barber

Associate Dean Joanne Arhar called the meeting to order at 11:00 am in Room 304 White Hall. No Additional items were added to the agenda.

Minutes from December 10, 2004 meeting were reviewed. Alicia Crowe moved to approve the minutes, Andrew Gilbert seconded, and the motion passed.

Bette Brooks asked for information about the new regulations for Highly Qualified special education teachers. Joanne provided information that special education teachers need to have a content area to be considered highly qualified. Current graduates do not have a content specialization and neither do 7000 teachers in Ohio. One way for current special education teachers to become highly qualified is to take 6 credits of coursework: one in content and one in pedagogy. The special education faculty are developing a workshop entitled "Differentiated Instruction" that would be offered state wide through an on-line format.

Charity Snyder opened discussion regarding Admission Policy Changes. The current policy requires students to have a 2.75 GPA along with 16 college preparatory units or a score of 980 SAT/21 ACT. The Admissions office has requested that this policy be changed to 2.75 GPA only, with the rationale that the COE is the only college to require college prep units, and removing this requirement would enable Admissions to process applications more efficiently. Committee members expressed concern about such a change, and discussion was tabled until Debbie Barber could be present to answer questions.

Joanne Arhar opened discussion on PRAXIS II as a prerequisite for student teaching, which would consequently change graduation requirements to include passage of the test. Our ETS quartile ranking dropped from the 2nd to the 3rd even though our pass rate is remaining relatively stable. Discussion centered on "gaming" in which other institutions require passage of Praxis II for graduation, thus ensuring a higher ranking. George Haber noted that the ratings may portray a more accurate picture if mean scores were included. Alicia Crowe argued that the quartile rankings are meaningless. Joanne reported that Laura Harper found that in at least one program area, half of the students do not apply for the license and that requiring Praxis II for student teaching might alert students to the importance of content knowledge for teaching. At least three school districts are now requiring passage of Praxis II in content area to student teach.

For students who have no intention of teaching, a solution may be an Education Studies degree. Those who would like to teach but do not pass Praxis II could retake it after graduation and then, if they pass, could student teach to get the license. This would allow the Clinical Field Experience Office to focus attention on those who intend to teach.

Discussion returned to Admission Policy Changes. Debbie Barber gave a brief review of the proposal, noting that the Admissions office does not anticipate a negative effect on student preparedness from such a change. The committee discussed the proposal and possible implications if passed. It was noted that data on the level of college preparedness is available through the COMPASS test. Joanne Arhar requested that Council members discuss the proposal with their colleagues and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

Alicia Crowe moved to adjourn and Andrew Gilbert seconded the motion. Next meeting is Friday, March 4th at 11:00 am in Room 304 White Hall.