

Structure of the Professional Education Council

Rationale

To ensure compliance with National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standard 6 - A (Unit Governance and Resources — Unit Leadership and Authority), which provides governance and authority guidelines for teacher education programs, the faculty of the Department of Educational Studies in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences proposes to redefine the structure and practices of the Professional Education Council (PEC).

The following relevant information is included as part of NCATE Standard 6 – A.

- The unit provides the leadership for effectively coordinating all programs at the institution designed to prepare education professionals to work in P-12 schools.
- Colleagues in other units at the institution involved in the preparation of professional educators, school personnel, and other organizations recognize the unit as a leader.

Definition of the Unit:

NCATE definition: The institution, college, school, department, or other administrative body with the responsibility for managing or coordinating all programs offered for the initial and continuing preparation of teachers and other school personnel, regardless of where these programs are administratively housed. Also known as the “professional education unit”. (Glossary, Professional Standards for the Accreditation of Schools, Colleges, and Departments of Education, 2002 Edition)

Unit as defined in our Institutional Report as: The Teacher Education Unit at UT Martin is comprised of all faculty involved in the preparation of teacher candidates. This includes faculty from the departments within the College, i.e., Educational Studies and Health and Human Performance, along with faculty from the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, Visual and Theatre Arts, and Music. Faculty from Humanities and Fine Arts and Engineering and Natural Sciences are also involved in teaching the content for secondary licensure content areas (p. 4 of IR).

Structure

Name: The committee shall retain the name Professional Education Council.

Membership: The membership of the Professional Education Council shall consist of the following members:

- Dean, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (chair);
- Educational Studies representatives:
 - 1 Special Education
 - 1 Elementary Education
 - 1 Early Childhood Education
 - 1 Middle Grades

- 1 Secondary Education
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
- 1 Representative from the Graduate Committee (*ex officio*)
- 1 Department of Health and Human Performance representative;
- 1 College of Business and Public Affairs representative;
- 1 College of Engineering and Natural Sciences representative;
- 1 College of Humanities and Fine Arts representative;
- 1 representative from each of the licensure areas outside COEBS
 - Music
 - Art
 - Agriculture
 - Consumer Science
- Chair, Department of Educational Studies (*ex officio*);
- Director, Education Student Services (*ex officio*).

Representatives shall be tenured or tenure track faculty with at least one year of experience in the department at The University of Tennessee at Martin.

The chair of the Department of Educational Studies shall nominate representatives from Educational Studies to the PEC chair. The chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance shall nominate a representative to the PEC chair. The deans of the respective colleges shall each nominate a representative to the PEC chair from the College of Business and Public Affairs, the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. The PEC chair shall request nominations for membership on the PEC for each academic year at the end of the spring semester of the preceding year.

Responsibilities

The Professional Education Council members shall serve as advisors to the Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences on teacher education matters. In this advisory capacity, the Council shall provide a vehicle for communication among all departments that participate in the preparation of teacher education candidates. The PEC would serve as an advisory body on all items.

The PEC shall meet once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester of each academic year as determined by the PEC chair. Other meetings of the PEC may be called at the discretion of the chair.

NOTE: As a result of this change, the “Recommended by Prof. Ed. Council (Teacher Ed. Only)” signature line should be removed from all university undergraduate and graduate council curricular request forms.