



# Missouri State<sup>™</sup>

U N I V E R S I T Y

## ***Educator Preparation Provider Executive Committee Meeting Minutes***

February 28, 2018 | 3:30 p.m. | Carrington 203

### **I. Call to order**

Andrew Homburg called to order the regular meeting of the Educator Preparation Provider Executive Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 28, 2018 in Carrington 203.

Present: Chris Craig, Karen Engler, Adam Harbaugh, Andrew Homburg, James Sottile

Guest: Tamara Arthaud, Kim Dubree, Danielle Lillge, Michelle Morgan, Rebeca Woodard

### **II. Approval of minutes**

The minutes from January 31, 2018 meeting were approved. Minutes stand.

### **III. Discussion Items**

1. Dr. Craig referred the committee and guests to a draft of proposed action steps to increase MoCA pass rates and a PowerPoint containing MoCA data and asked them to review both documents. The group was reminded that MoCA performance was discussed at the February EPPC meeting.
  - a) There are reasons why MSU is concerned about the performance data.
    - i. MSU considers the reduction of risk a priority. Exposure is linked to reputation. What does the public see when they view MSU?
    - ii. Budget is a second concern. MSU is anticipating more cuts to the budget. MoCA performance is tied to additional funding. Funding measures have been met in the recent past but education has been left out of that equation. That is probably going to change and education will be folded back in via MoCA performance.
    - iii. There are facts and information that should be analyzed to create a best outcome. This will meet the CAEP Standard 5 requirement of taking action based on data.
  - b) At the last Academic Leadership Council it was reported that all programs in COE are moving to an approach where students will be required to pass the MoCA prior to student teaching. COE should not be moving on this issue separate from EPPC. This is a unit-wide issue and should be treated as such. An exceptions process also needs to be in place.
    - i. Due to the risk factor and funding we ought to look at the information that has been provided to us and draft language for student teachers requiring them to pass the MoCA prior to student teaching. The proposal presented today can be used as a springboard. In the past, the Exceptions Committee used individual student contracts when PRAXIS was used. The same mechanism can be used for students that do not pass the MoCA. If the student does not pass the MoCA prior to student teaching they would receive an incomplete until they pass. This approach may not fit every program. Steps need to be established to assist students to perform better. Our goal is to provide support and develop options that we can all agree on to improve our MoCA pass rate. This group needs to strategize to come up with two or three best options for EPPC to consider. Options should be available for the April EPPC to review and with a vote for best option at the May EPPC meeting.
  - c) The committee and guests have questions and concerns:
    - i. Clarification is needed on the recency rule. Different committees have been reporting conflicting information which makes it difficult to know the best plan of action.
    - ii. DESE can change requirements at any time.
    - iii. An incomplete in student teaching turns to an F grade after one year if the student is unable to pass the MoCA.
    - iv. Concern is expressed about our graduation rate if this language is made official. This language may solve the MoCA pass rate problem but may create problems in other areas.
      1. Dr. Craig states that the graduation rate is not one MSU's funding measures. This is a serious issue. If we do not pass this funding measure, MSU will not receive a specific amount of money. Graduation rate is a concern but it is not tied to funding.

#### **EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER**

901 South National Avenue, Springfield, MO 65897 • Phone: 417-836-6204 • Fax: 417-836-5008

[www.missouristate.edu/epp](http://www.missouristate.edu/epp) • [epp@missouristate.edu](mailto:epp@missouristate.edu)

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- v. There is a disconnect between the MoCA exams and what we teach our students.
  - vi. Timing for taking the MoCA, students not on campus and difficult to contact between semesters, and when exceptions must take place are an issue.
    - 1. We are not going to keep students from student teaching. A fair and equitable workload for Program Coordinators is also desired.
  - vii. The current catalog states that students must attempt the MoCA before completing student teaching. A catalog change is needed. Individual contracts may take care of Program Coordinator's having to track down students.
  - viii. Concern is expressed that a student complete the program but because they haven't passed an external assessment are unable to graduate. There needs to be an outlet for students to obtain a degree if they are unable to pass the MoCA.
  - ix. There were logistical problems with placing students when MSU required the PRAXIS. A similar issue could arise if we do the same with MoCA.
  - x. All concerns are important but it doesn't change the reality of the position MSU is in monetarily. We have had decreasing performance profiles for the last five years. This group needs to either consider the option before them or create another, better option.
  - xi. Pearson-Vue has agreed to work with MSU on scheduling better testing windows which may help with logistics.
  - xii. MSU needs to provide resources for practice testing. The current practice materials are generic and not aligned to the MoCA. There is not a practice guideline for all programs. Tutors might be a good idea.
  - xiii. There needs to be a mechanism in place to prevent students from continuing in a program if they are unable to be successful.
- d) The charge to this group is to take the proposed action steps as a beginning to create an option that can be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting.
    - i. The group may want to consider a zero credit course as an option. It could be built in to the degree requirements. It would solve the logistics issue. The student would not receive a diploma until the zero credit course was passed. Financial aid may be used to pay for the exams dependent on students meeting the borrowing guidelines and/or not maxing out their financial aid.
  - e) A planning meeting will be scheduled for this group to meet before the April Executive Committee meeting to talk about options inclusive of all concerns expressed today.
  - f) Deans are attending the March EPPC because they are invested in this. It is a serious issue for the university.
- 2. College of Education: David Hough (absent)
    - a) No report.
  - 3. Assessment update: James Sottile
    - a) Dr. Sottile will discuss the MEES data at the March EPPC meeting.
  - 4. Secondary Education Update: Karen Engler
    - a) No report.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- 1. The ad hoc committee is meeting to discuss a possible zero credit course to resolve issues such as financial aid problems and MoCA testing. Dr. Craig would like the ad hoc committee to share their zero credit course proposal with those in attendance at today's committee meeting as another option to resolve MoCA performance issues before the group meets again in three weeks.

#### **V. New Business**

- 1. No new business.

Andrew Homburg adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Vicki Kramer