

Program Review Year 2006 – 2007

Name of Program:

Elementary Education

Program Review Team Members

Name

Title

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Dean of Education, Fitchburg State College

DATE: March 2007

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

SECTION SIX: SUMMARY

I. CONCLUSIONS: PROGRAM STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

A. List and describe the program's major strengths, based on information obtained in the Program Review. Cite evidence for each identified strength.

| AREA OF STRENGTH | EVIDENCE |
|--|---|
| Well-developed curriculum that aligns with the Commonwealth Transfer Compact and meets the employment standards for public school systems. | See EDU Curriculum Map (Appendix 3) and Section One, IV. C. (a). |
| Highly qualified instructors and professional staff who are in the "real world" of education, stay current with research, and take personal interest in their students' goals and success. | Cooperation and contributions in the program review process. Faculty credentials listed on Chart 6 (Appendix 1). |
| Numerous and varied field experiences that meets transfer compact requirements and offers students invaluable insight into the field of teaching. | See Section One, IV. C. (b). |
| Center for Careers in Teaching that provides resources and advice regarding the MTEL. | See Section One, IV. C. (c). |
| Effective communication with and advising of students to ensure success. | See Section One, III. A. |
| Increasingly active Advisory Committee. | Interest taken and contributions made in the program review process. See meeting minutes in Appendix 2. |
| Multiple partnerships within the college that effectively support the program and its students. | Various collaborative relationships listed on page 3. |
| Key partnerships with community organizations and public school systems which are mutually beneficial. | Various collaborative relationships listed on page 4. |

B. List and describe the program’s weaknesses or areas in which improvement is desirable, based on information obtained in the Program Review. Cite evidence for each identified weakness or area for improvement.

| WEAKNESS OR AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT | EVIDENCE |
|---|---|
| Uncertain future for the Center for Careers in Teaching. | See Section Four, V. The MVP (Seeding Success) grant that has been paying the salary of the CCT coordinator will be over in September 2007 and there is no college commitment thus far to continue funding her position. |
| Commitment to complete funding by the college of the salary of the EDU Director. | See Section Four, V. |
| Advising of EDU students. | The EDU director currently advises all of approximately 130 students, which is an enormous task. |
| Maintaining the “freshness” of EDU students’ knowledge of education-related concepts over the course of their time at NECC. | EDU faculty report that because it can take a long time for some students to complete a degree if they attend part-time and there are only four EDU courses, which students may take many semesters apart, faculty frequently have to “go back” and re-teach critical ideas and procedures. |
| More and stronger relationships with field experience partners. | EDU faculty reports student difficulty with finding placements for their classroom observations, even at schools where previous students have had success in the past. |
| Limited EDU program information available on the NECC web-site. | NECC web-site |
| Inadequate system for ensuring that students do not participate in field experiences without first being cleared by the MA and NH CORI/SORI boards. | Recent contact with students who had not received clearance but had begun their field experiences in schools that did not require confirmation. |

II. ACTION PLAN

For each identified weakness or area in which improvement is desirable, submit an Action Plan.

| Problem | Improvement Activity | Person Responsible | Date of Activity | Findings |
|--|--|--|--|----------|
| Uncertain future for the Center for Careers in Teaching. | Request a no-cost extension on the MVP grant and use leftover funds to support as much as possible the part-time salary of the CCT Coordinator for the next year. Over the course of the year it is hoped that the college will make the commitment to funding for future years. | EDU Director with support of the Dean of Institutional Advancement and the Dean of Law, Education, and Social Professions. For funding beyond next year, the Vice President of Academic Affairs. | Extension request: March 2007 College budget commitment: FY2009 | |
| Analysis: | | | | |

| Problem | Improvement Activity | Person Responsible | Date of Activity | Findings |
|--|-----------------------------|---|------------------|----------|
| Commitment to complete funding by the college of the salary of the EDU Director. | Request funding for FY2008. | Dean of Law, Education, and Social Professions and the Vice President of Academic Affairs | Spring 2007 | |
| Analysis: | | | | |

| Problem | Improvement Activity | Person Responsible | Date of Activity | Findings |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|----------|
| Advising of EDU students. | Institutional commitment to maintaining the CCT and its coordinator, who will assume some advising responsibilities. | EDU Director with support of the Dean of Institutional Advancement and the Dean of Law, Education, and Social Professions. For funding beyond next year, the Vice President of Academic Affairs. | Extension request: March 2007 College budget commitment: FY2009 | |
| Analysis: | | | | |

| Problem | Improvement Activity | Person Responsible | Date of Activity | Findings |
|---|---|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Maintaining the "freshness" of EDU students' knowledge of education-related concepts over the course of their time at NECC. | Advising part-time EDU students to take EDU courses as close together as possible. Also, development of 1-credit EDU capstone course to ensure that when students are ready to transfer into the education program of a four-year college their connection to essential concepts and procedures is fresh. | EDU Director | Academic year 2007-2008 | |
| Analysis: | | | | |

| Problem | Improvement Activity | Person Responsible | Date of Activity | Findings |
|---|---|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| More and stronger relationships with field experience partners. | Call and/or meet with school administrators of school systems where our students go or have indicated an interest in going for their field experiences. | EDU Director | Academic year 2007-2008 | |
| Analysis: | | | | |

| Problem | Improvement Activity | Person Responsible | Date of Activity | Findings |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| Limited EDU program information available on the NECC web-site. | Develop EDU web-page under "Programs of Study" that is similar to the one developed by the ECE program | EDU Director | Summer 07 | |
| Analysis: | | | | |

| Problem | Improvement Activity | Person Responsible | Date of Activity | Findings |
|---|--|--------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Inadequate system for ensuring that students do not participate in field experiences without first being cleared by the MA and NH CORI/SORI boards. | Discuss with Registrar and Coordinator of Criminal Justice Program ways to improve monitoring of eligibility lists and for making the determination of eligibility more efficient. | EDU Director | Meeting: March 2007 | |
| Analysis: | | | | |

III. RESOURCES REQUESTED

Complete the following chart, including quotes from vendors, diagrams for requested space, and draft postings as appropriate.

| 1. EQUIPMENT | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|-------------|
| Item | Justification | Vendor (include contact information) | Cost | Date Needed |
| Tables and comfortable seating in all classrooms | Uncomfortable seating is not conducive to learning, especially during 3-hour classes | | | |
| Computer beams in all Spurk classrooms | Access to instructional technology needs to be available to all instructors, no matter which campus or building they are teaching in. | | | |
| 2. PERSONNEL | | | | |
| Position (identify as faculty, staff, etc.) | Justification | Credentials/area of content expertise related to curriculum | Salary | Date Needed |
| Staff: Part-time CCT Coordinator | See Section Four, V. The MVP (Seeding Success) grant that has been paying the salary of the CCT coordinator will be over in September 2007 and there is no college commitment thus far to continue funding her position. | This request is to maintain the staff person who is already performing this role. | \$12,685 | 7/08 |
| Staff: Full-time EDU Director | See Section Four, V. | This request is to maintain the staff person who is already performing this role. | \$55,797 | 7/07 |