

Teacher Education Advisory Council Sub-Committee**October 18, 2021****2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.****Zoom**Welcome and Check-in (**Dean Hill-Clarke/Dr. Hall**)

- Dr. Hall brought greetings and discussed the opportunity for students to apply to COE scholarships. [COE Scholarships](#)

Updates:

- **Office of Teacher Ed & Clinical Placements (Robinson)**

1. MAT Program Admission GPA Requirement

- a. Current Practice – We have students who do not meet the 2.75 undergraduate or the graduate GPA requirement to be admitted to the MAT program. We ask these students to enroll in 6 graduate course hours as a nondegree seeking student and earn at least a 3.0 on those 6 hours. We will then have them reapply for the MAT program and use those 6 hours of course work to admit them to the MAT program. Students cannot receive financial aid if they enroll in school as nondegree seeking candidates.
- b. Discussion – Should we continue the current practice or consider conditionally admitting these students? If they are conditionally admitted, students would be required to receive a 3.0 or higher GPA on the first 9 hours of their course work before being fully admitted to the MAT program. Questions to Consider: Does the graduate school allow students to be conditionally admitted? Can students receive financial aid if they are conditionally admitted?
 - a. Question: How many students are in this situation?
 - i. Around 4-7 students total between last school year and this school year.
 - b. Question: Do we have any policies concerning the GPA within a certain number of years?
 - i. Dr. Robinson reached out to the state and none of the state policies address parameters for how long the undergraduate GPA counts? (Ex. If a student has not been in school for ten years and returns to school, does this GPA still count?)
 - c. Question: What is the drawback to allowing them to move forward with the program?
 - i. Dr. Robinson explained that we are considering this issue in terms of

- ii. compliance with the state.
 - d. **Question:** **Do other EPP programs admit students conditionally?**
 - i. Dr. Robinson found only one school with published information about conditional admission: Tennessee Tech University.
 - e. **Question:** How should students show evidence that they will do better in their graduate program?
 - i. Dr. Robinson explained that students can prove it through the 3.0 GPA on their coursework.
 - ii. Dr. Adams suggested letters of recommendation.
 - iii. Dr. Robinson suggested that students complete an EDA self-evaluation first.
 - f. Dr. Anderson is in favor of the conditional admission, particularly because the undergraduate GPA and success on the Praxis examination do not correlate.
 - g. Dr. Adams also is in favor of conditional admission because the English department has a similar process for conditional admission to the graduate program.
- c. **Vote:** Should we continue our current practice or should we conditionally admit these students and require them to hold a 3.0 GPA for the first six hours to be fully admitted.
- a. Dr. Irwin made a motion; Dr. Adams seconded this motion.
 - b. The motion was passed with nine members approving the new process.
2. Undergraduate TEP Admissions/Exit GPA:
- a. **Special Exceptions** – How do we assist students who have a high institutional GPA that is well above the TEP Admissions GPA requirement (2.75), but have an overall GPA that is lower than 2.5 which is the GPA required for Alternative TEP Admissions? State policy does not explicitly state “overall” 2.75 GPA. It states, “A minimum postsecondary grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 at the time of admission to the EPP”.
 - b. **Discussion** – Should we develop an additional appeals process to assist students who fall within these special exceptions to assist them with being admitted to TEP? This special appeal would relate to GPA only.
 - a. **Question:** Would this process only be extended to transfer students, or would this also apply to UofM students? How do we make it equitable for all students?
 - i. Dr. Robinson explained that this policy will be inclusive of all students. Dr. Robinson suggested that we calculate the average GPA last 60 hours and be equitable, whether they are a UofM or transfer student.
 - ii. Dr. Hall explained that students may not have the 60 hours.
 - iii. Dr. Combs and Dr. Klossner are interested in the process being equitable for all students.
 - b. Dr. Robinson suggested that a vote is held until the next meeting.

- i. Dr. Hall suggested moving forward, we may need to put in place a process for the conditions by which exemptions are made for a few students rather than adapting policies as we move forward.
 - c. **Resolution:** Dr. Hall and Dr. Robinson will decide exceptions on a case-by-case basis instead of changing the overall policy. Dr. Hall further suggested how exceptions can be granted and provide this in writing to Dean Hill-Clarke and the November TEAC Committee before enacting this process.
3. Exit GPA 2.75 – We currently require an exit GPA of 2.75 for undergraduate teacher education programs. The University's exit GPA requirement is 2.0.
 - a. Discussion – What is the purpose of the exit GPA? Is the exit GPA still needed? If so, should it be so much higher than the University's required exit GPA?
 - i. Dr. Hall explained that we must monitor the average of students in the program as it relates to CAEP standards.
 - ii. Question: Do other programs have an exit GPA?
 1. Music: Students' exit requirements are a 2.0
 2. PETE: Teacher directed programming has an exit GPA of 2.75.
 3. Dr. Ransdell explained that CAEP takes a cohort average.
 - iii. Question: Do other programs on campus have an exit GPA?
 - iv. Dr. Robinson explained that the only other program is engineering and perhaps nursing.
 - v. Question: Do districts look at teacher candidates GPAs that they want to hire?
 1. Institutional GPAs are typically not the issue, but the transfer GPAs affect their overall GPA.
 2. Dr. Hall explained that legacy Memphis City Schools worked with Memphis Teacher Project to increase the quality teacher candidate pool; however, there has since been a teacher shortage. Districts are looking for graduates who are certified.
 3. Dr. Anderson explained that the TEP admission requirement is sufficient. She is in favor of aligning the COE exit requirements with the overall requirements.
 4. Dr. Irwin also in in favor of removing the exit requirement.
 5. Dr. Ransdell suggested a survey of the districts to determine if they have a GPA requirement.
 - vi. **Motion to Table Agenda Item:** Dr. Robinson motioned to table the vote during the exit GPA vote until the November TEAC meeting.
- **TDOE – (Robinson)**
 1. [October Human Capital Update](#) (Click here for the latest updates)
 - a. Educator Prep Working Group (EPWG) application is open. The application will close on Friday, 11/19.
- **(Ransdell & Nichols)**
 1. State Review Process Update



2. SLL Update

- **Dean's Office (Hall)**
- **Open Discussion/Additional topics**