

**Education Standards and Practices Board  
Program Approval Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

September 19, 2019

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC) meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin. PAAC members present were Jessica Rush, Kim Belgarde, Bob Toso, Brenda Tufte. Joining on the phone was Mary Eldredege-Sandbo, Andi Dulski-Bucholz, Stacy Duffield, and Cheryl Nilsen.

PAAC members absent were Ben Johnson and Penny Veit-Hetletved, Also present was Rebecca Pitkin ESPB and Mari Riehl, ESPB

Introductions were held. Visitors were Kent Hjelmsted and Candi Weyrauth from Neuta Hidatsa Sahnish College.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of August minutes Bob Toso motioned to accept the minutes. Seconded by Jessica Rush. Minutes were approved.

Becky shared information on the new core math test offered by Praxis. There are some subgroups who did not perform well on the past test. It is hoped that students perform better on this new version. Changes were made in the area of geometry to better align with K-12 education. ND student performance aligned with performance of subgroups in other states.

**Lakota Language Proposal Update at UND**

At the last meeting PAAC asked for additional information and clarification from UND. The additional information was received from Cheryl Hunter who has replaced Ann Walker at UND. Andi commented about the concern for the increase in rigor and increase in responsibilities. She asked if the group believed this request has been met. Becky stated this is a new program and UND is willing to provide any additional information this group would wish to see in the future. Stacy commented about the similarities in the syllabi. It was difficult to see the increase in rigor as the courses increased. Stacy was satisfied with the changes that were made showing the progression. Brenda also commented that they defined the syllabi more accurately as requested. The concern with no Praxis for this area was added. The PAAC wonders what proficiency measurement will be used to indicate completion. Cheryl expressed interest in the use of proficiency, what data is being collected, as well as the final outcome - with the absence of the Praxis. What will this look like. PAAC requests an update once a final determination of proficiency has been determined. Cheryl did feel they could proceed at this time but they will continue to communicate the updates. Cheryl motioned and and Bob seconded. Motion carried.

NHSC:

They are working hard to meet the standards of their program. Brenda recognized the guests, Kent and Candi were there to answer questions. Following the last meeting, Becky met with the college and established expectations and artifacts which were due prior to the Sept. PAAC meeting.

The seven items requested were not all received 5 days prior to the meeting. However, now all items have been received. Brenda asked NHSC to share a little about their progress.

Kent shared that they inherited this program and are in the learning process. Kent shared they definitely need more time. They have a very small program and are not ready to call this final.

Candi commented on the eportfolio. They had a consultant working with them this summer. Putting together the key assessments has been difficult. The assessments have not been tested as they have just been built. Candi mentioned that they are reaching out to stakeholders to get feedback and help make changes.

Kent used the STOT for the first time with students. One of the challenges they are having is that they are such a small college that some of the syllabi are not updated as the courses have not been offered in quite a while. A survey done by the college showed a high concern for lack of teachers. There is great community support for trying to continue to improve their program. One of the segments of the reservation raised \$600,000 and this was offered by Mandaree school if they could produce 10 students. They have students who are close to the end of the program who are able to work in the community and make much more than they could if they would finish their teacher education program and become a licensed teacher. Kent commended Candi on her keyboarding as they created so much of this program from scratch. Candi explained she had been working with stakeholders to try to get them to understand the need for surveys and evidence of pre-service teacher performance and impact, and the many requirements of accreditation. Although their numbers are small, they do feel they produce good students.

In August 2019 PAAC approved a timeline for NHSC. It is now time to decide if they can continue to work on their program. ESPB would need to monitor the next steps, tasks, and timelines. Site visit would be in the fall of 2020. Documents in January would be due and the items will reflect components of the self-study. Cheryl reminded them to look at the recruitment plan also to help remedy their concern for the small numbers of students. Kent explained how the segments are beginning to attempt to help solve the shortage of teachers. They want to help be part of the solution. Bob said that part of the solution seems to be the need to raise salaries. They are dealing with the stigma of the reservation also.

Motion was made by Bob to continue on the timeline and allow NHSC to continue to make improvements in their program. The motion was seconded by Cheryl. Andi commented that it is critically important to get these items done in a timely manner. She shared the importance of data and although numbers are small, they would like to see

data to help make decisions. She also mentioned that this is not a new process as mentioned in the presentation. Kim added the importance of the deadline and timelines need to be met. Candi added her thanks for their understanding and concerns. Becky asked if they are planning to go to the self-study workshop at the CAEP conference next Saturday as that would be helpful. Kent does plan on attending. All members approved and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43am.