

Committee on Teacher Education (COTE)

~ Meeting Summary ~

January 20, 2005

Members present: M. Anton, T. Banta, B. Berghoff, C. Cowen, S. Fox, A. Gavrin, L. Hurt, B. Jones, K. Murtadha, C. Souch, J. Swope, G. Williams

Guest: Claudette Lands and Sarah Baker

1. The November 16 *Meeting Summary* was approved.
2. Berghoff introduced a discussion of IUPUI **initiatives designed to attract students to teaching as a career**. She and Claudette Lands described the following programs, which are led by SOE faculty and staff:
 - Science Day for Middle School Students (in Professional Development Schools). Students have hands-on science experiences in a lab, then have pizza and talk about careers in science and teaching.
 - Middle-School Guidance Counselor Programs – designed to inform counselors about IUPUI teacher preparation curricula and what high school students need to do to prepare to enter these.
 - Cadet Teacher Corps in Lawrence Township. High school students in the Corps help out in elementary classrooms. Now SOE faculty are developing a course to introduce the Cadets to teaching. If the students come to IUPUI for teacher education, they can earn three credit hours for this course. 30% of the Cadets are minority students.
 - Project Team – 21st Century Scholars at IUPUI serve as mentors for high students in Upward Bound.
 - Early College at Washington Community School – eventually will involve all IUPUI schools. Currently, first year IUPUI students majoring in secondary education are involved.

Gavrin noted that Physics 152 is offered in high school for IUPUI credit.

Jones suggested that since middle schools have after-school programs, this might present an opportunity for IUPUI to offer information about teaching as a career and about teacher education programs.

Lands identified several barriers to success in college that exist for Project Team members:

- African American students often perceive that their college teachers don't care about them. They need to feel that their instructors are interested in their welfare. In addition, they need to experience role models who really love teaching because they have not seen much of this among their own high school teachers.
- Although they have scholarships that pay their tuition, this is not enough support for most. They must also hold a job, and this is difficult since they must take 12 hours of credit to earn their scholarships.

- The PPST is a barrier; some have taken it as many as six times. Tutoring is offered and this does help to raise scores.
- Middle schools counselors and teachers are not always helpful. They find it hard to believe that students who don't study can be successful in college, so they don't encourage some students even to consider college.

Hurt observed that professional development for K-12 teachers no longer addresses human relations skills. The focus is only on subject matter and how to prepare students to take tests on it.

Williams said that we need to do more to publicize the kinds of outreach activities in which IUPUI faculty and staff are engaged. We need to highlight the fact that this is an urban campus and we are engaged in our urban community.

Williams told COTE members that career counseling and academic counseling are paired in University College; counselors are trained to offer students both kinds of help. Since students who have selected a major are more likely to persist, counselors focus on careers associated with majors of interest to each individual student with whom they are working. The counselors also discussed the availability of jobs in those fields.

University College has 200 student mentors who are on leadership scholarships. These mentors do a lot of teaching with their peers. Williams believes we could convince some of these mentors to become teachers.

Williams introduced Sarah Baker, faculty member in Radiologic Sciences, who described a Thematic Learning Community (TLC) on Health Professions. The first-year seminar that is part of this TLC helps students see that there are many health professions. They need back-up plans if they cannot get into nursing or other capped allied health programs. For example, over 200 students recently applied for 36 spaces in radiography. Baker emphasized that the TLC offers pre-, mid-, and post-assessment opportunities that enable students to view their chances of success in the health professions realistically. She observed that many of the students interested in careers in health-related fields are strong in math and science; thus they could probably be good math or science teachers. Only 25 students were able to get into the one TLC on Health Professions. The SOE has three TLCs, but there are many more students with an interest in teaching who cannot get into one of these sections. Many more faculty need to be encouraged to teach TLCs.

Gavrin noted that it is very hard to attract faculty to TLC responsibilities. Only \$500—to be used for travel or other professional development—is offered as compensation for many extra hours of work. In addition, this teaching activity takes time away from research and scholarship and other activities that are valued more in the promotion and tenure process. Murtadha and Cowen mentioned that discussions are underway regarding a joint SOS-SOE TLC.

3. Berghoff introduced a video tape depicting **small schools** in New York City. Our speaker on March 22, Deborah Meier, is one of the speakers on the tape.

Julia Richman High School in mid-town Manhattan is featured in this presentation. JREC, as it is called, now houses six high schools, each with a different mission, where a single high school operated a decade ago. Education is personalized for each student. Now the graduation rate for JREC is 90%. The entire community is involved in making JREC a success. Each of the six schools is autonomous, with its own schedule, but there are shared services such as health and the center for teacher inquiry. A building manager schedules space.

With the video tape as background, COTE members look forward to an interesting presentation and discussion with Deborah Meier at the Eiteljorg on March 22.