

Special Education MAED Board Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2021

Time 4:30-6:00

Members present: Lisa Bloom Professor, Special Education, Karena Cooper-Duffy, Professor, Special Education, Brad Witzel Professor, Special Education, Margie Stebbeds, EC Director of Yancey County Schools, Iris Rouleau, Adjunct, Amy Clark, MAED grad student, Amber Henry EC teacher at The Catamount School/ Student, Kristin Holt, Teacher, Jackson County Early College, Amber Izrael, Alumni and Doctoral Student, Dale Carpenter, Professor, Special Education, Regan Bell, Teacher RSSS, Paula Dowd, EC Director Asheville City Schools, Charmion Rush, Associate Professor, Special Education, Tammy Barron, Assistance Professor, Special Education, Kristy Doss, Instructor, Special Education.

Absent: none

Guests: school partners are noted above

1. Welcome and Introductions- Lisa Bloom
2. Advisory Board Purpose – Lisa Bloom
3. Program Updates – Lisa Bloom
 - a. Three options: MM, SD, AIG
 - b. Enrollment MAED/MAT- 118
 - c. Faculty Search- not complete
 - d. Dr. Brad Wetzel- Adelaide Worth Daniels Professorship
 - e. Project Interact opportunity
 - f. Creativity Camp opportunity
 - g. Laura Thompson- NCAGT Outstanding Teacher of the Year award
 - h. Several grad students presented at the NCCEC, NCAGT, WCU TECH EXPO

Ways the Special Education faculty used the Advisory Board Feedback from last year.

- More technology applications- EDCI 646 were added because the board requested more technology be added to the graduate program.
- Cohorts are informally being formed and tried as a recommendation of the board last year.
- Helping families through the transition process was another area addressed by the board. This content is being worked on with Kelly Kelley through the UP program and her outreach in the schools with UP ambassadors. There is information on transition included in courses.

4. New Business Items
 - a. Rubric Validation- Lee Nickels

- Validation testing was conducted on the Specially Designed Instruction plan. Agreement was found on all items on the rubric.
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- b. Proposal for Research Cognates- Brad Witzel- presented this idea.
- Dr. Witzel explained the plan of using cognates to the board and the board provided feedback on their thoughts of this plan.
 - I like the idea of microcertifications or microspecializations
 - One area that is very limited in resources is severe behavior issues in students that are labeled as ID severe
 - I also wonder if there is a way that they could sample a couple of the areas before deciding on one.
 - I would love to see more transition options, as well
 - A couple of ideas... Co-Teaching; and/or Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) would be good cognates
 - Co-teaching is a great idea!
 - Great idea!! That is a great way to create specialist who can become experts in their interest area.
 - I would love Instructional Technology!
 - I think that's a great idea
 - I love this idea!
- Kristy Doss to shared a link for the board members to take a survey.
- Link for Collaboration Survey
 - <https://forms.gle/bkCRzi2d766wGt1e7>
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- c. Recruitment Opportunities- Kristy Doss –
- Dr. Doss asked the board to share ideas to help with recruitment. For example, share ideas about why you selected WCU and why others would want to come to WCU.
 - As far as recruitment, if transition is included a little more then I know a few Kentucky teachers that would be very interested in WCU
 - Mental health and social emotional issues
 - More opportunities to get multiple license – AIG was link a concentration able to add on the middle school license
 - Price of the tuition
 - Online option is really important
 - Length of the program – only 2 years
 - Lots of folks on the East coast do not know about WCU – advertise more and connect with EC directors on that side of the state.
 - Good undergrad experience. Faculty work hard to be there for students
 - Recruit from the undergrad program.
 - Also, I attended an NCCAT session at Cullowhee a few years ago and this is what put WCU on my radar.
 - I liked the idea of having my masters in something that was very fluid and could apply to any grade level I happened to be teaching. I agree with the ability to see the list of required classes and what was offered for me. The classes felt worth my time and very applicative. I had actually planned to do my master's at another school since my undergrad was from WCU, but this program was amazing. Also, the

"internship" or "in-class" portion was manageable and easily obtained rather than a residency. I liked the combo of virtual and in-person classes.

- Researched the top schools in graduate education, selected the top school. First introduction to WCU was Marissa. Gave personal one on one touch this was like sitting with a friend. High ranked school, got an assistantship, and made important relationship.
- Microcredentialing is another way to create connections and help set the stage for doctoral work.
- Home school world has lots of folks looking to graduate programs. Present at one of their conference to reach folks looking for graduate programs.
- EC Director in Yancey county schools – WCU courses are well thought out and meaningful. Partnership with WCU and Yancey county. Get students to go to WCU as undergrads and come back to Yancey county. Have them go back to grad school while working in Yancey county. Do a Yancey county cohort.
- WCU has billboards on interstate 85 in Salisbury, NC! Always puts a smile on my face when I see it - 3.5 hours away from WCU
- Even a talk at a similar conference would help spread the name.
- See the needs for teachers in Yancey county Michelle county, Aery county – see what the need is in those areas and create a content that can support the needs of teachers in that area.
- EC director for Asheville city schools - cohort going through WCU now. They are very positive and using that content in their work at ACS. Behavior management, coteaching, Autism, ABA, is a big need in ACS. Feedback is strong from students attending that university. Compared to what is happening at Eastern Carolina university.
- Share your words of positivity with those looking for grad programs.

d. Hot topics and other areas of importance in the school.

Disproportionality in education – the discrepancy of academic skill acquisition across diverse learners.

How is MTSS used to address – disproportionality

Behavior and special education blend. How to keep working with students who have challenging behavior and continue to educate them in the school. More than just ABA.