

THE UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION  
(formerly University Council on Teacher Education)

The University Council on Teacher Education was designed to implement the principle that "the education of teachers is a function and responsibility of the entire University." As originally organized, the Council comprised nearly 100 faculty members of the University. These included a delegation of 44 from the College of Education and additional members from University departments offering teaching majors, minors or composite majors. The grant of power to the University Council on Teacher Education was broad. It was given the responsibility, "for developing the policies of the University pertaining to teacher education. This includes all programs which have school related objectives regardless of degree level."

Since its formation, difficulties have been pointed out regarding the Council and its operation. For one, the Council has proved to be unwieldy. This is related to the size of the body which is so large that faculty attendance at meetings has suffered, since individual attendance has seemed to lack significance. The Council has failed to develop a strong and steady group of effective members who have sought to administer the charge given the Council.

A second problem relates to a dual role which has been played by the Council. In its original conception the Council's concern was the formulation of policy. However, in practice, the Council has exceeded this limitation and has acted in various operational capacities.

A third difficulty, following from the above, is that the Council appears to have hampered the freedom of the College of Education in ways which were not envisioned originally. While it is one thing to assert the primacy of the University in assuming responsibility for teacher education, it is quite another for the College of Education to be restrained so that its faculty and administration lack necessary freedom to act in accordance with general precepts which may have been set. It seems in some cases that the existence of the Council has inadvertently reduced the capacity of the College of Education to take actions without specific direction from the Council. The existence of the Council may have had unexpected and demoralizing effects on the faculty and administration of the College of Education because the power of the School to develop its own destiny has been curtailed.

To consider such difficulties and their possible resolution, an ad hoc committee was appointed by Pete Gardner, Vice President for Academic Affairs, in 1977. The committee was reconstituted and its charge reaffirmed by Vice President Davern in May 1978.

After appropriate consultation and consideration, the Ad Hoc Committee has concluded that the problems with the present Council indicated above are real and substantial.

At the same time, there can be no question but that the Council has succeeded in promoting the intent of the University faculty that the entire institution be concerned with and, to a limited extent, be responsible for the training of teachers.

The Ad Hoc Committee affirms the soundness of the principle that the education of teachers is properly a concern of the entire University, and affirms also that a University council is important to this charge. However, it seems clear that the present structure is in need of modification. The Ad Hoc Committee therefore recommends:

1. That the present University Council on Teacher Education be terminated.
2. That the University Advisory Council on Teacher Education be established.
3. That the membership of the University Advisory Council on Teacher Education be as follows:
  - (a) The Dean of the College of Education, as presiding officer of the Council; the Dean shall have a vote in the Council;
  - (b) Four faculty members, one each from the College of Education areas of early childhood, elementary, secondary/middle, and special education, in addition to the Dean;
  - (c) One person from each college or school of the University in which teaching majors, teaching minors or composite teaching majors are granted;
  - (d) Persons representing community/state agencies may be appointed to the Council.

The faculty members on the Council from each college and community/state representatives shall be appointed by the academic Vice President upon recommendation of the appropriate college dean.

- (e) A student enrolled in a program leading to certification.

Implementation:

- (1) Students will be recommended to the Dean of the College of Education by department chairs in the College of Education and advisors for teaching majors and minors.
  - (2) The Dean of the College of Education will recommend a student to the Academic Vice President.
- 4.4. The University Advisory Council on Teacher Education shall meet at least once in each of the Fall and Spring semesters as called by the presiding officer. Furthermore, a petition from 30% of the membership of the Council requesting

one or more additional meetings shall be honored by the presiding officer. The Council shall appoint committees or agents as necessary to enable it to conduct its business.

5. The role of the Council shall be to assist the College of Education and the other college involved in teacher education in responding to the interests and concerns of the University in matters pertaining to the education of teachers with reference to substantive rather than pedagogical issues. The Council is to be concerned with policy and is not to perform operational functions.
6. The relationship of the Council to the College of Education shall be one of counsel and recommendation. The Council shall formulate for the College of Education and other colleges involved in teacher education recommendations for the training of teachers. At the same time, the Council shall serve as a conduit to transmit to the college's recommendations of the College of Education and recommendations of the Council on the functioning of the colleges in preparing teachers. It is expected that the Council, the College of Education and the several colleges will operate through compromise and negotiation. However, in the event of an irresolvable disagreement among the membership of the Council, the College of Education, or one of these several colleges, the Council by two-thirds vote may refer the matter to the Faculty Senate for resolution.
7. The University Advisory Council on Teacher Education shall be reviewed by the Faculty Senate after the first three years of its operation.

Respectfully submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, 5/17/78; approved by the Senate 10/2/78.

The Ad Hoc Committee:  
Alfred C. Emery  
Sterling M. McMurrin  
Allan Davis, Chairman

(Section 3.(a,b,c,d) revised 10/2/78).

(Section 3.(b) revised 1/11/82).

(Section 3.(e) revised 5/17/90).

(Section 4 revised 5/27/99).

(Reviewed, 10/31/08).