

University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
Draft Minutes
September 15, 2023
Teams Meeting
1:00 – 3:00pm



- I. 1:00 pm Approval of Agenda: (1st Cynthia Taines, 2nd John Evar Strid)
- II. Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2023 – hold over to next meeting.
- III. Reports
 - A. University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation
 - Welcome to/from new Vice Provost – Alicia Schatteman- Announced that Antoinette Jones is the new executive director.
 - UOELP/ISBE updates – A. Jones
 - **Elimination of edTPA:**
 - a. Effective immediately (Aug. 4) through August 31, 2025, no candidate completing a teacher preparation program or other candidate is required to pass a teacher performance assessment.
 - b. Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force will evaluate potential assessment systems for 2025 implementation.
 - c. Any current and future licensure candidates in your programs are not required to complete the edTPA.
 - d. Any prior candidates who did not pass the edTPA can also be entitled by your institution after you have verified all current licensure requirements are met.
 - **Disaster Proclamation Updates**
 - a. Anyone beginning student teaching on or after January 1, 2024, is required to first pass a licensure content test.
 - b. Grade of C- or Better: Candidates must pass any licensure coursework started on or after May 12, 2023, with at least a C- or equivalent. (EPPs may still honor courses with grades lower than C- if taken during time proclamation was in effect.
 - c. Short-Term Sub License: Application now available through June 30, 2028. Current STS license holders can renew for five years.
 - **Content Tests**
 - a. The Special Education General Curriculum Test (163) has been phased out and is no longer available. Content previously covered on 163 is covered in redesigned special education content tests.
 - b. Early Childhood Education Test (only this test) Pearson to conduct enhanced test item review and validation, after which SEPLB will review and vote on cut score recommendation. ISBE considering a FLEX option. Free practice test with test registration; in place now – for new registrations
 - **Rule Change: ESL/Bilingual Methods:**
 - a. ESL/Bilingual Methods Coursework is required prior to licensure for Illinois program completers Previously only required for out-of-state. Compliance by May 2024 – Members asked for clarification about it specifically saying methods, which is a specific class, but it also could be read suggesting the entire sequence that’s required for an endorsement. Antoinette Jones will get some clarification on this for the next meeting. Mike Eads added that he is sure NIU is fine, clarification would be great.
 - **New Law: Early Childhood AAS Degrees:** Requires all public universities offering early childhood education programs to accept an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in early childhood

education and grant junior-level status to any Illinois community college student who has graduated with this degree.

- a. Public universities may not require transfer students to repeat these courses successfully completed at the community college.
 - b. ISBE will be reaching out to each IHE with an approved early childhood education program soon to confirm compliance with the law. No dates yet, will happen soon.
- **Update: Safety Education:** Mandates particular “safety education” topics that must be included in educator preparation programs.
 - a. Originally legislated in 2015; recent addition of gun storage safety effective 2023
 - b. ISBE is discussing what topics IHEs are required to cover in coursework and has sought advice from Legal and Legislative Affairs teams and will communicate expectations, and collect required information, soon.
 - **Part 25 updates (Reminders)**
 - a. Each IHE needs a primary and secondary LO & must notify ISBE within 10 days of hire.
 - b. LOs must provide candidates, upon enrollment, with written documentation about creating ELIS account and when to apply for entitlement.
 - c. “Enrollment” means: A declaration by a student who has accumulated at least 60 semester hours (or equivalent) of coursework with an intent to graduate with an undergraduate major or minor leading to educator licensure; OR A graduate or post-baccalaureate registration as a candidate in a licensure program.
 - a. **Standards Redesign Deadline Reminders**
 - a. CRTL (all preparation programs) • Due to ISBE: June 30, 2025, • Approval Deadline: October 1, 2025 – NIU asked to participate in Candidate Assessment Panel for 9/25. First coaching session with West Ed on 8/23/2023.
 - b. IPES (all teaching programs) • Due to ISBE: March 1, 2026, • Approval Deadline: June 30, 2026
 - c. Secondary Education/PK-12 Teaching Programs • Approval Deadline: October 1, 2024
 - d. Special Education • Approval Deadline: October 1, 2025
 - e. A healthy discussion was held, Jones stated “there's an opportunity for us to really engage with the standards and determine on what levels would be most appropriate for us to implement here at NIU.” Not a check
 - **UOELP Updates**
 - a. Administrative assistant posting now open, until September 25th.
 - b. UOELP Workshops are open to all. No registration required. Information on email sent out.
 - c. Part One Entitlements- Due by September 25, 2023
 - d. Jeanie Sparacino assistance from Provost Office- Thank you!
 - e. C. Schaff – Annual Program Reports – in process of collecting data from Pearson for the content tests. They run four to six weeks behind. When has all the information, will upload everything onto blackboard. Working on the annual report – document, plan to have everything uploaded by the middle of October.

B. Other updates – M. Eads

- Instructional waiver policy approved on second reading (online vote in May)-Passed
- Substitute teaching policy approved on second reading (online vote in May)-Passed
- Soliciting candidates for Chair-elect
- Meeting format survey – please respond! – type of meetings to have, in person, hybrid, full remote. Where to have (rooms)

Subcommittee introductions – outgoing chairs please give a brief description of the subcommittee and some tasks you will be working on this year (if known). All members are expected to be on one of three

subcommittees, and anyone can also join the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee. Mike Eads let members know to sign up for subcommittees on an excel spreadsheet, name and email.

C. Assessment and Accreditation – JE Strid

- Working on a completer survey and on the development of that Completer survey done by another programmer, adapting it to our needs.
- Working on issues related to diversity and assessment, particularly the content area tests.
- Talked about alternatives for content area tests and getting more data on assessments as it relates to diversity.
- Issues with teacher, student, teacher evaluation with portfolio was also on our last agenda.

D. Placements and Partnerships – K. Kuschman/K. Lichtman

- Twice a year we plan the student teaching orientation, which applies to all candidates.
- Would be ideal to have somebody from each discipline or that's connected to each discipline.
- Have a good program but are always open to updating and changing as time goes on.
- Also talk about and share clinical experiences.

E. Curriculum, Policies, and Procedures – L. Gerzel-Short

- Developed and modified our substitute teaching policy.
- Edited the waiver policy.

F. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion –C. Taines

- Made connections with the different cultural centers on campus.
- Want to connect with low-income teacher candidates – securing funds for transportation.

IV. Sub-Committee Meetings

- Assessment and Accreditation (JE Strid)
 - a. New Chair - Paul Fix
 - b. Discuss priorities for the year.
- Placements and Partnerships (K. Kuschman)
 - a. New Chair – Kelly Gross, for the fall only. Gross is teaching all day on Friday in the Spring 2024
 - b. Discuss priorities for the year.
- Curriculum, Policies, and Procedures (L. Gerzel-Short)
 - a. New Chair – Lydia Gerzel-Short
 - b. Discuss priorities for the year.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (C. Taines)
 - a. New chair – will be chosen at their next DEI meeting.
 - b. Discuss priorities for the year.

V. Announcements – *reconvene committee of the whole.*

- A. Introduction of new subcommittee chairs
 - B. Looking for a Chair Elect
 - C. Next meeting date scheduled for October 13, 2023, via TEAMS meeting 1-3pm- 1:45pm start full committee meeting.
 - D. October 6, 2023, next executive committee at noon-1:00pm.
- VI. Adjournment 2:41pm (1st L. Gerzel-Short, 2nd K. Gross) APPROVED