

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: H.

Date: March 29, 2007

**Topic:** First Review of a Recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) to Grant Continuing Accreditation to the Teacher Education Programs at Bridgewater College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia State University

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## Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by  
 State or federal law or regulation  
 Board of Education regulation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Action requested at this meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Action requested at future meeting: \_\_\_\_\_(date)

## Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action  
date \_\_\_\_\_  
action \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

*The Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education* require colleges and universities that offer programs for the preparation of professional educators to obtain continuing program approval from the Board of Education. In Virginia, the review and approval of programs are viewed as the shared responsibility of institutions of higher education, school divisions, and the Department of Education. Final approval rests with the Board of Education.

The regulations define the standards that must be met and the review options available for the accreditation of teacher education programs. The regulations provide three options for accreditation and program approval:

1. a state review process for which the teacher education program must meet the standards established by Board of Education regulations;

2. the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) process for which the teacher education program must meet the Board of Education’s teaching area requirements and the NCATE standards; or
3. the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) process for which the teacher education program must meet the Board of Education’s teaching area requirements and the TEAC standards.

In all three options, the institution hosts an on-site visit by a team of trained reviewers who develop a report of findings that is submitted to the Department of Education for review by the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL). The Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Board of Education regarding program approval.

### **Summary of Major Elements:**

Bridgewater College was reviewed under the Board of Education process. Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia State University were reviewed using the NCATE process.

The review team makes a recommendation of “met” or “not met” for each of the standards. In addition, the team makes a recommendation of “approval,” “approval with stipulations,” or “denial” for the teacher preparation program as a unit, and one of these three recommendations is made for each endorsement area offered by the institution.

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommends that the Board of Education grant approval to the preparation programs at Bridgewater College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia State University.

The following is a summary of results of the on-site reviews.

#### Bridgewater College

The review of the Bridgewater College undergraduate programs for teacher preparation was conducted October 31-November 2, 2005, in accordance with the standards and procedures outlined in the *Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education*.

The regulations set forth 20 standards in the following four categories:

- I. Program Design;
- II. Faculty;
- III. Candidates; and
- IV. Program Operation/Accountability.

The team recommended “approval” for the Bridgewater College’s teacher preparation program. As defined in the approved program regulations, a recommendation of “approval” is made when the professional education program and the endorsement areas are considered satisfactory. The review team cited 18 of 18 applicable standards as being met. Standards 5 and 6 (educational leadership) were not considered.

The following two weaknesses were cited:

Standard 10 (Admission of Candidates):

- The Department of Education at Bridgewater College does not have a plan for recruiting candidates of diverse backgrounds.

Standard 20 (Adequate Resources):

- The professional education unit does not provide adequate technology resources that are consistent with the technology resources used in the preK-12 classrooms in which candidates are placed.

The number of program completers by endorsement area at Bridgewater College for the 2003-2004 year is listed below: \*

<b>Bridgewater College</b>	<b>Number of Completers</b>	<b>Endorsement Area</b>
	20	Elementary Education preK-6
	1	Mathematics 6-12
	5	Health and Physical Education preK-12
	1	Music: Vocal/Choral preK-12
	1	Music: Instrumental preK-12
	1	Science: Biology 6-12

\*As reported to the Virginia Department of Education in the *Supplementary Data for the 2003-2004 Title II State Report* by institutions of higher education with approved teacher education programs on April 7, 2005.

Virginia Commonwealth University

The review of the Virginia Commonwealth University programs for teacher preparation was conducted April 22-26, 2006, in accordance with the standards and procedures outlined in the regulations. This was a continuing accreditation review at the initial and advanced preparation levels conducted under the protocol of the Virginia/NCATE partnership agreement. The State/NCATE Board of Examiners found that five of the six NCATE 2000 standards listed below were met.

- Standard 1: Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions
- Standard 3: Field Experiences and Clinical Practice
- Standard 4: Diversity
- Standard 5: Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development
- Standard 6: Unit Governance and Resources

At its October 2006 meeting, the Unit Accreditation Board (UAB) of NCATE reviewed the findings of the Board of Examiners and made a decision to continue the accreditation of Virginia Commonwealth University with conditions that require the institution to host a visit (no later than fall 2008) focused solely on Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation that was found to be unmet by the Unit Accreditation Board.

Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation

- The unit does not have an integrated set of assessment measures that provides aggregated data for each transition gate and regular, comprehensive information on applicant qualifications, candidate proficiencies, competence of graduates, unit operations, and program quality.
- The unit does not maintain all key assessment data through the use of integrated information technologies.
- The unit does not regularly and systematically use assessment data to evaluate the efficacy of its courses, programs, and clinical experiences.

Additionally, the following areas for improvement were noted:

Standard 1: Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions

- There is a lack of alignment of curriculum and assessments to Specialty Professional Association (SPA) standards.
- The unit lacks performance assessment data that indicate the quality performance of program candidates.

Standard 4: Diversity

- The unit does not systematically ensure that all candidates have field placements with diverse students.

The number of program completers by endorsement area at Virginia Commonwealth University for the 2004-2005 year is listed below: \*

<b>Virginia Commonwealth University</b>	<b>Number of Completers</b>	<b>Endorsement Area</b>
	6	Health & Physical Education preK-12
	59	Elementary Education preK-3
	7	Middle Education 6-8
	1	German preK-12
	4	Spanish preK-12
	8	English 6-12
	11	History and Social Science 6-12
	6	Mathematics 6-12
	5	Library-Media
	3	Science: Biology 6-12
	1	Science-Physics 6-12
	7	Special Education: Early Childhood

	<b>Number of Completers</b>	<b>Endorsement Area</b>
	7	Special Education: Emotional Disturbance K-12
	13	Special Education: Learning Disabilities K-12
	4	Special Education: Mental Retardation K-12
	8	Special Education: Severe Disabilities K-12
	20	Adult Education
	83	Administration and Supervision preK-12
	10	Reading Specialist
	28	School Counselor preK-12
	20	School Psychology

\* As reported to the Virginia Department of Education in the *Supplementary Data for the 2004-2005 Title II State Report* by institutions of higher education with approved teacher education programs on April 7, 2006.

### Virginia State University

The review of the Virginia State University programs for teacher preparation was conducted April 22-26, 2006, in accordance with the standards and procedures outlined in the regulations. This was a continuing accreditation review at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels conducted under the protocol of the Virginia/NCATE partnership agreement. The Board of Examiners found that all six standards prescribed in the NCATE 2000 Standards were met. The six NCATE 2000 Standards include:

- Standard 1: Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions
- Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation
- Standard 3: Field Experiences and Clinical Practice
- Standard 4: Diversity
- Standard 5: Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development
- Standard 6: Unit Governance and Resources

At its October 16-21, 2006 meeting, the Unit Accreditation Board (UAB) of NCATE reviewed the findings of the Board of Examiners and decided to continue accreditation at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels. The areas for improvement are listed below. The next NCATE visit is scheduled for fall 2011, which is seven years after the originally scheduled fall 2004 visit.

#### Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation

- The unit assessment system is not fully operational, resulting in data collection, aggregation, analysis, and summary being incomplete.
- (Advanced Preparation) Information technologies are not used at the unit level to monitor candidate performance and manage and improve unit operations and programs.

The number of program completers by endorsement area at Virginia State University for the 2004-2005 year is listed below: \*

<b>Virginia State University</b>	<b>No. of Completers</b>	<b>Endorsement Area</b>
	1	Music Education: Vocal/Choral preK-12
	8	Elementary Education preK-6
	1	English 6-12
	1	Mathematics 6-12

\* As reported to the Virginia Department of Education in the *Supplementary Data for the 2004-2005 Title II State Report* by institutions of higher education with approved teacher education programs on April 7, 2006.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure’s recommendation to grant continuing accreditation to the professional education programs at Bridgewater College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia State University.

**Impact on Resources:**

Expenses, with the exception of those for the state representative, incurred during on-site review of teacher education programs are funded by the host institution.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

Reviews of teacher preparation programs in Virginia are conducted on a seven-year cycle. Programs that do not meet standards for continuing accreditation are reviewed as needed. Programs that meet standards for accreditation will be reviewed again on the established cycle.