

**ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND  
LICENSURE (ABTEL) MEETING**

**Minutes  
February 6, 2006**

**Meeting Date and Location:** February 6, 2006  
Richmond Marriott West Hotel  
Glen Allen, Virginia

**ABTEL Members Present:**

Jeffrey Arco	Dr. Ronald E. Diss	Mary Kolman
Rene Massey Ashjian	Dr. William H. Graves, III	Cheryl Lightfoot
Cynthia D. Baird	Margaret Shibley Gray	Robin Smith
Lisa Bowman	Rebecca Hill	James B. Scott
Sharon L. Condrey	Dr. Betty Hobbs	Gloria Talbott
Dr. Nancy Davenport	Linda W. Kelly	Rena' White

**ABTEL Members Absent:** Sandra Smith-Jones

**Board of Education Liaison:** Dr. Ella P. Ward  
Dr. Thomas A. Elliott

**Ex-Officio Members:** Dr. Gary Krapf  
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia  
Dr. Susan S. Wood  
Virginia Community College System

**Department of Education Staff:** Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver  
Dr. Douglas J. Fiore  
Patty S. Pitts

**Guests:** John Blackwell, Virginia State University  
Micheline Dunleavy, Private Citizen  
Deborah Goforth, 2006 Virginia Teacher of the Year  
Dr. Delores Greene, Virginia State University  
Dr. Roy Holmes, Saint Paul's College  
Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association  
Dr. John Mattar, National Evaluation Systems, Inc.  
Princess Moss, Virginia Education Association  
Dr. Karen Parker, Liberty University  
Dr. Patricia Shoemaker, Radford University  
Dr. Dorothy Sluss, The College of William and Mary  
Connie Smith, Fairfax County Public Schools  
Yvette Smith, Education Testing Services  
Dr. Robert Triscari, Virginia Department of Education

## **FULL BOARD MEETING**

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL), called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. The chair expressed appreciation to ABTEL members on behalf of Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, recently retired superintendent of public instruction, for the gift of appreciation presented at the November 21, 2005, meeting in recognition of her contributions to education in Virginia.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Linda Kelly announced that a public comment period would be added to the agenda following the presentations to the full board in order to provide guests an opportunity speak. Dr. William Graves made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Ron Diss seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**James Scott made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. William Graves seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

## **PRESENTATION TO FULL BOARD**

### *Presentation from the 2006 Teacher of the Year*

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teacher Education, Licensure, and Professional Practice, introduced Mrs. Deborah (Debi) Goforth, 2006 Virginia Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Goforth is a library media specialist at Courtland Elementary School in Spotsylvania County. Mrs. Goforth made a presentation to ABTEL, emphasizing her platform focus on “teacher encouragement” and literacy.

### *Presentation on the Office of Professional Practice*

Dr. Douglas J. Fiore, Director, Office of Professional Practice (OPP), Division of Teacher Education, Licensure, and Professional Practice, gave a PowerPoint presentation for the purpose of informing ABTEL members of organizational changes within the division, as well as initiatives of the new office. The OPP became an official part of the Division on December 10, 2005.

The mission of the OPP is to advance the development and implementation of innovative strategies and initiatives to promote the following: a) recruitment of school personnel; b) the retention of school personnel; and c) the growth of educators in Virginia. The mission will be accomplished through implementation of key strategies focusing on the broad areas of professional development for teachers, administrator growth and development, mentoring, teacher retention, teacher recruitment, grant writing, and procurement.

## *Presentation on the Results of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA)*

Dr. John Mattar, Senior Area Director, Assessment Service Department, National Evaluation Systems, Inc. presented a report on the *Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) Validation and Standard-Setting Study* conducted on January 20, 2006. The study was composed primarily of teachers as well as central office, school division, and higher education representatives. The VCLA is composed of two areas—reading and writing. Each area is assessed by a separate subtest—a reading subtest and a writing subtest. The first test administration was held statewide on January 7, 2006.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Patricia Shoemaker, Assistant Dean, College of Education and Human Development, Radford University, commented on the need to consider both the VCLA and Praxis I as optional assessments for entry into teacher preparation programs.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Teacher Education Committee and the Licensure Committee met from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

### **FULL BOARD**

#### **REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### Teacher Education Committee Report

Dr. William Graves presented the report and recommendations from the Teacher Education Committee. **The Teacher Education Committee made a motion that the full ABTEL recommend that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the ABTEL recommendation to grant continuing programs approval to the University of Mary Washington and Sweet Briar College.**

**The recommendation was passed unanimously by the advisory board.**

The Teacher Education Committee reported that discussions regarding the review and approval of the teacher preparation program at Saint Paul's College and the ABTEL motion to establish an award and recognition program honoring Dr. Mary V. Bicouvaris be continued at the March 20, 2006, meeting.

##### Professional Licensure Committee Report

Cheryl Lightfoot presented the report and recommendations from the Professional Licensure Committee. **The Professional Licensure Committee made a motion that the full ABTEL recommend to the Board of Education to establish the following cut scores for the VCLA:**

**Reading: 235 scaled score**  
**Writing: 235 scaled score**  
**Composite: 470 scaled score**

**An individual may meet the requirement by meeting the individual scaled scores on the reading and writing subtests or meeting the composite score. The members of the advisory board further recommended that the cut scores be re-examined based on data from test takers in two years.**

**The advisory board made the recommendation based on several factors, including that the VCLA is a new test, and the test data from the January 7 administration may not be representative of the population who will be required to take the test. In addition, the colleges and universities may need to adjust their curricula to focus on the objectives of the test.**

**The recommendation was passed on a vote of 13-1.**

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Dr. Susan S. Wood reported the following information regarding the work of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS).

- In 2003, the Virginia Community College System signed system wide articulation agreements with 12 four-year institutions that have approved teacher preparation programs. The agreements provided guaranteed admission to those universities with students who meet eligibility requirements, including graduation with an associate degree and passing Praxis I. These agreements are being revisited and will be updated as a result of feedback from the institutions. Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver, Director of Teacher Education, Division of Teacher Education, Licensure, and Professional Practice, is representing the Department of Education in this initiative.
- VCCS is sharing with its college representatives updated information about the VCLA and other required licensure assessments so that students pursuing traditional teacher education programs can be well informed about requirements for licensure.
- The VCCS Career Switcher Program is operational with its spring cohorts. Under way are two programs, one offering a track to licensure in the endorsement areas of mathematics, science, and foreign language, and the other providing a pathway to endorsement in English as a Second Language. The latter group is a pilot project. This spring, the VCCS will be completing a marketing strategy for the Department of Education recognized Career Switcher Programs. The program will sponsor a table at the Third Great Virginia Teach-In.

- A presentation on the VCCS Career Switcher Program will be conducted at the annual conference of the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs. Unfortunately, this conference coincides with the dates of the Teach-In; therefore, some VCCS program leaders will be attending the annual conference instead of the Teach-In.
- The VCCS is monitoring a variety of bills addressing transfer, particularly the Transfer Scholarship proposal that would enable community college transfer associate degree graduates to transfer to a four-year public institution and freeze the community college tuition scale.

#### The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Dr. Gary Krapf reported the following information regarding the work of SCHEV:

- Dr. Nancy Cooley, director of academic affairs and planning, has been appointed assistant provost for Distance Learning at Old Dominion University. Dr. Krapf announced that anyone interested in the position at SCHEV is encouraged to apply.
- The Gear-Up grant has not yet been funded.
- A feasibility study has been completed on the Southside Virginia University initiative. It appears there will be an emphasis on technology and implementation of a two-plus-two degree program. More information will be provided on this initiative at the March ABTEL meeting.
- A handout titled, “Income of U.S. Workforce Projected to Decline if Education Doesn’t Improve,” was disseminated to ABTEL members.
- The 2005-06 *Virginia Guide to Education after High School* brochures are available through SCHEV.

#### Department of Education

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott provided the following information:

- The next ABTEL meeting will be held March 20, 2006, on the campus of Virginia State University.
- Proposed *Regulations Governing the Licensure of Instructional Personnel and the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* are currently under review in the Office of the Secretary of Education. Upon completion of that review, the proposed regulations will be sent to the Governor. Within 30 days, the proposed regulations will be printed in the *Virginia Register*. After a 60-day public comment period, the revised documents will be forwarded to the Board of Education for approval.

- The Great Virginia Teach-In will be held on March 18, 2006, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.
- The Teachers of Promise Institute will be held March 17-18, 2006, at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.
- There are numerous bills related to education that are currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Updates on selected bills will be provided at the next ABTEL meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned.