

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

**MINUTES
November 21, 2005**

Meeting Date and Location: November 21, 2005
Richmond Marriott West
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

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

ABTEL Members Absent: Dr. Nancy Davenport
James B. Scott
Sandra Smith-Jones

Board of Education Liaison: Dr. Ella P. Ward

Ex-Officio Member: Dr. Gary F. Krapf, Council of Higher
Education for Virginia
Dr. Susan Wood, Virginia Community College System

Department of Education Staff: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott
Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver
Patty S. Pitts

Guests: Bonnie Atwood, David Bailey Associates
Betty Lambdin, Va. Education Association
Dr. Sue Magliero, Virginia Tech
Jon Petersen, Department of Education
Dr. Paul Sale, Radford University
Dr. Dorothy Sluss, The College of William and Mary
Connie Smith, Fairfax County Public Schools

FULL BOARD MEETING

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gloria Talbott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Margaret Shibley Gray seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Robin Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2005, advisory board meeting. Sharon Condrey seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

REVIEW OF 2005-06 MEETING DATES

Lisa Bowman made a motion to change the January 23, 2006, meeting date to February 6, 2006, to allow time for the standard-setting study of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) to be completed so a recommendation on a cut score for the VCLA may be developed for Board of Education review and approval. Rene Massey Ashjian seconded the motion that was passed unanimously. The remaining meeting dates for this school year are as follows:

February 6, 2006
March 20, 2006
April 24, 2006

RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA TEACHERS

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott announced that the 2006 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Debi Goforth, a library media specialist at Courtland School in Chesterfield County, will address the advisory board members at the February 6, 2006, meeting.

The 2005 Milken Educators, Laura D. Lay, a social studies teacher at James River High School in Chesterfield County, and Mark L. Ingerson, a ninth-grade world history teacher at Salem High School in Salem City Schools, will be honored at a special banquet on December 14, 2005. Mark Ingerson is a former member of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure.

Board certified teachers were announced for the fall 2005.

PRESENTATION ON THE CRITERIA FOR IMPLEMENTING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CREDITS FOR ALTERNATE ROUTE APPLICANTS SEEKING INITIAL LICENSURE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott presented the Board of Education's Criteria for Implementing Experiential Learning Credits for Alternate Route Applicants Seeking Initial Licensure. Individuals applying for an initial license through the alternate route as prescribed by the Board of Education must meet the following criteria to be eligible to request experiential learning credits in lieu of the coursework for the endorsement (teaching) content area:

1. Hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university;
2. Have at least five years of documented full-time work experience that may include specialized training related to the endorsement sought; and
3. Have met the qualifying score on the content knowledge assessment prescribed by the Board of Education.

The criteria does not apply to teachers of special education and elementary education (prek-3 and prek-6); however, in administering the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* modifications may be made in exceptional cases by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee.

PRESENTATION OF NEW VIRGINIA LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS

Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA): Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver presented an overview of the status of the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA). The test is required for initial licensure for individuals seeking elementary (prek-3 and prek-6) endorsements, certain special education endorsements, and for individuals seeking a reading specialist endorsement. The cut scores approved by the Board of Education will become effective July 1, 2006.

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA): Patty Pitts presented information regarding the development of the new Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The National Evaluation System, Inc., was awarded the contract to develop the assessment. Content and Bias Committees have met, and the test is under development. The test will be required effective January 1, 2006. The first administration of the test has been scheduled for January 7, 2006. The cut score will be established by the Board of Education upon completion of the standard setting of the test.

PROPOSED CYCLE OF THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott and Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver presented the proposed cycle of the review and approval of education programs in Virginia. Advisory board members received a chart outlining the cycle and the proposed *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*. If the new regulations become effective, all programs will be granted “conditional approval.” Between July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, programs will certify program compliance and develop biennial measurable targets (MTs). The MTs will be submitted to Board of Education for negotiation and approval. This process would be completed by June 30, 2007. The first data would be due by January 2, 2008, based on approved MTs for all programs. By June 30, 2008, programs would receive one of the following ratings: (1) approved, (2) approved with stipulations, or (3) approval denied.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

FULL BOARD

PRESENTATION TO STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Linda Kelly, ABTEL chair, presented a gift of appreciation to Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, superintendent of public instruction, who will retire December 31, 2005. On behalf of the advisory board members, Linda Kelly expressed their appreciation for the contributions Dr. DeMary has made to education in Virginia.

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Teacher Education Committee Report

Dr. Bill Graves presented the report and recommendations of the Teacher Education Committee. **The Teacher Education Committee made a motion that the following two recommendations be submitted to the Board of Education:**

- 1. that the University of Mary Washington’s teacher preparation program be fully approved; and**
- 2. that Sweet Briar College’s teacher preparation program be fully approved.**

The recommendations were passed unanimously by the advisory board.

The Teacher Education Committee reported that no recommendation be made regarding the review of Saint Paul’s College’s approved programs. The committee requested to

review the full report of the on-site visit as well as meet with officials regarding the recommendation from the state team.

Licensure Committee Report

The Teacher Education Committee reported the following:

1. The committee will continue to review the feasibility of recommending a Praxis II test for special educators. This item needs to be reviewed based on the recommended endorsement revisions in special education.
2. The committee reviewed preliminary information regarding the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI) test as a possible proficiency assessment for candidates seeking an American Sign Language endorsement. Additional information is needed before a recommendation can be developed.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott explained that colleges and universities were surveyed regarding when Virginia approved program graduates should be subject to meeting the requirements of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The choices provided in the survey were May 2006, August 2006, or December 2006. The institutions overwhelmingly recommended that individuals who graduate from an approved program who have met the Praxis I, Praxis II, and VRA (if applicable) requirements prior to December 31, 2006, should not be subject to the VCLA. Dr. Sue Magliero, Virginia Tech, requested that the advisory board support the proposal. The advisory board unanimously supported the recommendation.

LIAISON REPORTS

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Dr. Susan Wood left the meeting and asked Dr. Gary Krapf to report the following information on behalf of the Virginia Community College System:

1. Middle school teacher, Yvonne Elgin, was honored as an exemplary career switcher representing the VCCS Career Switcher Program at the recent Career Switcher Celebration held at the Teacher Quality Forum.
2. The VCCS Career Switcher Program is continuing its special outreach to Region 8. Dr. Karen Newtzie, VCCS Career Switcher Program Director, met with Region 8 superintendents today (November 21) to discuss how to meet teacher shortages.
3. As a continuing result of the Higher Education Restructuring Act, the VCCS increasingly has been contacted by four-year institutions interested in developing statewide transfer agreements. Typically, these agreements establish criteria for guaranteed admission to the university (not to specific

programs) for associate degree graduates from VCCS colleges. It is expected that these broad system-wide agreements will be augmented by regional program-to-program agreements that are more specific and apply institution to institution.

4. The VCCS and approximately ten four-year institutions signed transfer agreements several years ago specific to elementary, middle, and special education. These agreements will be revisited and updated to reflect institutional revisions.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

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

1. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia is implanting a new online tool designed to clearly identify which courses will transfer from Virginia community colleges to four-year institutions of higher education. The Web-based resource is available at www.schev.edu. Public and private colleges throughout the state provided information for the transfer tool database, which delineates whether more than 60 Virginia community college system's general education courses will transfer as core requirements or elective credits.
2. SCHEV will be applying for a new Project GearUp Grant in February 2006 (\$3.5 million per year for five years). Over 7,000 students in middle schools will be the target population (in economically disadvantaged schools/regions).
3. SCHEV approved over \$510 million in operating priorities for higher education, including recommendations for achieving base adequacy by 2008, as well as fully funding the Commonwealth's goals for faculty salaries by 2008 and undergraduate student financial aid by 2010. The Council also approved over \$891 million in capital recommendations over the next biennium, including funding for new academic and research space, and the renovation of current institutional space.

Department of Education

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott provided information on the Teacher Quality Grant as follows:

1. The Teacher Education and Licensure System I (TEAL I) of the Comprehensive Data System, has been completed. TEAL II has four phases. Radford University is working on the first phase of TEAL II of the comprehensive data system. TEAL II will provide electronic data collection and reporting of higher education students and program completers.
2. The grant continues to support programs to recruit and retain teachers. The Third Great Virginia Teach-In will be held March 18, 2006.

3. The Teachers of Promise Institute will be held at James Madison University in March 17-18, 2006.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Paul Sale, Radford University, questioned the cost impact of the proposed *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*. Dr. Thomas A. Elliott responded that the Department of Budget and Planning would prepare an economic impact analysis. There will be a series of meetings with institutions of higher education and Department of Education representatives regarding the implementation of the regulations.

DISCUSSION OF RECOGNITION OF MARY BICOUVARIS

Dr. Ron Diss made a motion for the Department of Education to study and make a recommendation regarding a permanent recognition of Dr. Mary Bicouvaris, Virginia and National Teacher of the Year. Rena' White seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned.