



◆ **Licensure Committee Advisory Council Minutes** ◆  
**October 13, 2009 4:00-5:30pm**

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**Date:** 10/13/2009

**Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 pm

**Location:** MLC Board Room

**Attendees:** Chuck Beitlich, Ken Board, Susan Haar, Lance Hartzell, Carla Hulke, John Isch, Bob Klindworth, Ron Ohm, Barbara Polzin, Sue Schwarzrock, Al Spurgin, Steve Weber, Cindy Whaley

➤ **Call to Order:** (4:03pm)

1. Cindy Whaley called the meeting to order with welcome and introductions.

➤ **Goodbyes** (4:04)

1. Marsha Balfanz & Renee Oakland has asked to be removed from the Advisory Council because of other commitments. Both educators have faithfully served this committee for many years. An appropriate thank you will be created by Dr. Whaley and sent to them (see page 7)

➤ **Approval of Minutes – 10/7/08** (4:06)

1. Approved by: Al Spurgin
2. Seconded by: Steve Weber

➤ **“Setting the Stage” for today’s meeting – Cindy Whaley** (4:07pm)

1. 4 main items to discuss
  - a. clinical experiences
  - b. licensure issues
  - c. new testing service
  - d. protocol for members

➤ **Portfolio Update – Lance Hartzell (4:09pm)**

1. Lance Hartzell presented the portfolio update in place of Professor Lotito.
2. Students gather models of evidence from their four years and put them into portfolios that include 10 cover sheets which cover each standard.
3. Students schedule a presentation for their portfolio which includes 20 models of evidence.
  - a. The portfolio panel usually consists of two people – a peer and a professor.
  - b. The presentation is given after the students final clinical experience.
  - c. There are three designated nights per year for portfolio presentations.
4. MLC will continue with hard portfolio copies this year.
  - a. We are looking into electronic portfolios in the future but the presentations would still happen face to face.

**Bob Klindworth:** “We still want to keep the face to face interaction with MLC students.”

**Al Spurgin:** “Will the portfolio be affected with the new changes in licensure coming?”

**Cindy Whaley:** “Students might have to meet another standard, yes.”

**Chuck Beitlich:** “Are the portfolios done by the time a student graduates?”

**Lance Hartzell:** “The students give their portfolio presentations after their final clinical experience and ideally would be done by the time they graduate. However, students are free to add to the portfolio with any ideas they have after graduation.”

**Cindy Whaley:** “The portfolio only dies if the students allow it to.”

➤ **Clinical Experiences Update – Cindy Whaley for Paul Tess (See Report) (4:20pm)**

1. Early Childhood Program (ECE) – Cindy Whaley (4:20pm)
  - a. The number of students placed into the Early Childhood clinical nearly doubled from last year’s total. A number of supervisors are working with 2 students per day.
  - b. We are thankful that we found enough placements and for the three new early childhood centers which agreed to accept placements.
    - I. Beans Plus, Inc. of Mankato
    - II. Kid’s Xcel of New Ulm

**III.** Jefferson School of New Ulm

- c. Three experiences of varying lengths make up the professional semester for ECE majors.
  - I. infant/toddler
  - II. preprimary
  - III. primary

2. ECE Update – Susan Haar (4:27pm)

- a. Most ECE schools are using half days in the morning and half days in the afternoon for student clinicals.
- b. A variety of combinations of settings have been an eye opening experience. It is a challenge because of the amount of turnover with teachers and also teachers leaving in the middle of the day.

**Cindy Whaley:** “We are required by the state of Minnesota that the students complete a full day setting. In most colleges the students are traveling up to 90 miles. Some of our students were concerned with the traveling distance in order to find placements for their clinical experiences.”

**Susan Haar:** “We will have our first licensed ECE graduate this December.

3. Other concerns:

- a. Not all the ECE schools start at the same time which causes problems with students’ amount of time they are at the centers.

**Cindy Whaley:** “Not all students have vehicles for driving to clinical locations. Students cannot always carpool because there might not be two students at the same location.”

**Susan Schwarzrock:** Asked about “ECE” and suggested “Sibley East as a possibility for clinical students.” She also paid a compliment to the students on “how well they help the teachers. We are very appreciative and very much enjoy working with the MLC students.”

4. Elementary Program: Cindy Whaley (4:32pm)

- a. Junior clinical had three new schools for placements.
  - I. Fairmont Public School
  - II. River Bend Academy
  - III. River Bend TEAM.

- b. At River Bend students are working with kids that have difficult issues. Because of this, students volunteer for placements at River Bend.
- c. Professor Tess gives his apology as he was unable to prepare a study because of his time spent with placements. The hope was to develop an acceptable instrument that would balance the cost (in terms of time) and the benefits (in terms of findings).

**5. Secondary Program: Cindy Whaley (4:36)**

- a. Two new clinical experiences are being planned to accommodate the requirements of the approved licensure programs for secondary mathematics and secondary life science. The semester-long experience of one day per week needs to occur in a mathematics or science middle school classroom.
- b. Six students will be placed for their mathematics clinical.
- c. One student will be scheduled for the life science clinical.
- d. Placement sites and cooperating teachers are being sought for the spring semester.

**6. Faculty changes due to budget cuts (4:38)**

- e. Professor Jeff Wiechman was granted a year-long sabbatical (part time) to serve as principal of St. Paul Lutheran School, New Ulm. Jeff will continue to have some MLC responsibilities as a supervisor of student teachers at St. Paul's.
- f. Professors Jack Minch, Timothy Schroeder and Jonathan Balge will be terminated after the 2009-10 school year due to the college's RIF (Reduction in Force) policy.

➤ **Secondary Programs – Professor Ohm (4:40)**

- 1. Professor Ohm is currently supervising six students in high school. "All the supervisors have been very happy with the students so far." The supervisors also said "We could sent them more students."
- 2. Music, mathematics and physical education disciplines

**Cindy Whaley:** We are currently placing students into clinical experiences even though licensure has not been approved yet for some secondary programs. Life science and mathematics have been approved by the state and the English program is up to the state waiting for approval.”

- a. Secondary program concerns

**Cindy Whaley:** “We don’t have enough licensed secondary supervisors with the increase in students entering the secondary programs. “

**Professor Ohm:** “Also some of the high schools are smaller and are teaching a variety of disciplines throughout the day.”

➤ **New Licensure Structure – Cindy Whaley (4:48)**

1. We will find out more information at MACTE meetings on October 21-22.

**Bob Klindworth:** “22 people meet with the Minnesota Board of Teaching at the MACTE meetings to discuss the changes in licensure.”

**Cindy Whaley:** “There is a new testing chart available for students. Tests are a part of a students life, just like the portfolio. The students now only have to take one PLT test even if they are a double major.

- a. Testing update:

- I. The new testing service is Pearson.
- II. MTLE tests. See Licensure report.
- III. Our state is moving to tests that are also meeting the Minnesota state standards.
- IV. Everything will be computer based – no more paper based. This is a concern for us because we are a test site. Do we have enough settings to still be a test site?

**John Isch:** “Who decides the reciprocity with the other states?”

**Cindy Whaley:** “The Minnesota Board of Teaching decides. For instance, Wisconsin still uses the Praxis tests. The question is will they still be equivalent tests or will teachers need to take more tests to obtain a Wisconsin teacher’s license? We will find out more about this at the MACTE meetings.”

**John Isch:** Why did the Minnesota Board of Teaching decide to change test services?”

**Cindy Whaley:** “To save cost and the concern of validating Minnesota standards with the tests.”

**Barb Polzin:** “Are all the standards set?”

**Bob Klindworth:** “They are all approved, yes.”

**Barb Polzin:** “Will the passing scores change with the new testing service?”

**Cindy Whaley:** “We have some transition time with the current students. Students beginning in the 2010-11 school year will begin with the new testing. We don’t know what the passing scores will be at this time.”

**Chuck Beitlich:** “Do any other states use Pearson as a testing service?”

**Cindy Whaley:** “We are not sure because we were not even told the name of the new testing service until very recently.”

**Chuck Beitlich:** “How does it affect any licensed teachers now?”

**Cindy Whaley:** “It will not affect current Minnesota licensed teachers except that by 2012 a technology component will be added for license renewal.”

2. Change in licensure – Cindy Whaley (See Report) (5:15pm)

- a. A number of teachers from Wisconsin would like to teach in Minnesota and obtain a Minnesota teaching license.
- b. It is no longer required that every student get an endorsement like we currently have with a specialty. Students may obtain a “stand-alone” K-6 license without an endorsement.
- c. Students need to spend four weeks in a student teaching setting in a content specific area to get an endorsement. The experience must be in a 7th-8th grade classroom for the elementary program.
- d. A minimum of 15 credits of course work is required for an endorsement.

**Al Spurgin:** “We are currently looking at reducing the number of general education requirements to make this more obtainable for students.”

**Chuck Beitlich:** “Who’s the most capable to do the job, licensed students or non-licensed students?”

**Barb Polzin:** “Parents are looking more and more at if a teacher is licensed and if the school has accreditation. This does matter to some parents.”

3. The current plan is to send the chemistry, physics, and two music programs to the state in December for approval. There will be other programs sent in the future – physical education and social studies.

**John Isch:** “Are there less students with double majors then in previous years?”

**Cindy Whaley:** “There are actually more students wanting double majors then in years past because it gives the students more options as to where they will serve.

**Barb Polzin:** “A benefit of licensure is that it does make you aware of the benefit of continuing education.”

**Cindy Whaley:** “The University of Minnesota had the same concerns as MLC does as far as meeting the new licensure requirements.

➤ **Closing Remarks (5:28)**

1. What should we do as a council for the two people that served on the council?

**John Isch:** “The state only requires that you have representation from area schools and the term limit is determined by the committee.”

**Barb Polzin:** Sending a thank you card would be an appropriate gesture to the two people resigning from the Advisory Council.”

**Cindy Whaley:** “We will send a thank you card to Marsha and Renee on behalf of the Advisory Council. Much thanks and appreciation to everybody for your time and help. Have a great evening.”

➤ **Next Scheduled Meeting (5:31pm)**

- a. Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- b. 4:00-5:30pm
- c. MLC Board Room

➤ **Meeting Adjourned (5:32)**