

## **Teacher Preparation Committee Meeting**

April 13, 2009

12:45 p.m. at UTC

**Members Present:** Dennis King, Donna Oliver, Pam Kimball, Debbie Bird, Mary Smith  
**Guests:** Gert Nesin & Susan Scott

### Agenda Items:

- Assessment – The group welcomed Gert Nesin (EDS 520) and Susan Scott (EDS 320) to the meeting to share their assessment course content with the group. Our purpose was to become more informed about what the university expects students to know and be able to do and what the schools want their new teachers to know about assessment and be able to do when they arrive on scene.
  - The discussion was very informative. Both instructors use different texts and approach the topic in different ways, although the expectation for content knowledge is similar.
  - We talked about the importance of understanding the purpose of assessments, formative assessments (knowing where the child is at, where the gaps in curriculum are, and how to use the info to make a plan for the child), importance of assessing what is being taught, and how to use data to inform/change instruction.
  - Ann Davies work was discussed.
  - School-based members talked about new teacher expectation in the assessment area.
  
- After much discussion, the committee drafted the following statement to be reviewed by the committee and shared with TEF.
  - With the number of assessments that teachers need to know about (name of assessment, purpose of assessment, administration of assessment, interpretation of assessment and how to use the data to inform instruction), we commend the University of Maine for including an Assessment course in the curriculum. After a informative discussion with two University of Maine instructors of EDS 320 and EDS 520, here are some thoughts the PREP Teacher Preparation Committee would like to share with you that address what we saw as positive aspects of the course, concerns that were voiced and perhaps a suggestion for needed additions to the course:

<p><b>Positives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For M.A.T. students, the EDS 520 class is taught as two sections: K-8 and 7-12. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion of standards-based assessments</li> <li>○ Discussion of grading based on standards</li> <li>○ “Teacher-friendly” text and activities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDS 320 is taught as a very large class, thus little interaction possible</li> <li>• EDS 320 spans K-12 and assessment needs vary greatly</li> <li>• The text is a bit ominous – would like to see it be more like the EDS 520 text</li> </ul>
<p><b>Needs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be nice if the instructors had a knowledge of some of the common assessments used in area districts and “some” experience with a few of them</li> <li>• How to assess students on reporting standards-based materials</li> <li>• Information on RtI (Response to Intervention)</li> <li>• May want to include a reference to “The ABCs of CBMs”, a book about curriculum-based measurements.</li> </ul>	

Next meeting: May 18<sup>th</sup>

Agenda topics:

- Final discussion of technology benchmarks
- Quick update on PDS pilot
- Determine what questions will be addressed next fall