

# Council on Teacher Education (COTE)

May 9, 2001

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

AO 103

## AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of the March 21 meeting
2. Report from the Subcommittee on Internal Communication
3. Discussion of the STEP project and the Unit Assessment System
4. Updates on other matters of concern

## MINUTE SUMMARY:

Members present: R. Ahlgrim, T. Banta, C. Barman, B. Berghoff, R. Blake, S. Fox, L. Houser, G. Williams for B. Jackson, J. Kuczowski, C. Leland, K. Murtadha, R. Osgood, Larbi Oukada, H. Saatkamp, C. Souch, J. Watt, B. Wilcox

Members absent: Cindy Borgmann, M. Capuano, C. Collier, E. Jones, and Phyllis Scott

1. Minutes of the March 21 meeting were approved.
2. H. Saatkamp reported that apparently President Brand will make grant money available for proposals to be submitted to the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Teachers Project**. In addition, Project 30 membership has been obtained for IU.
3. C. Barman reported that 16 individuals have expressed interest in the **Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program**, and 10-15 are expected to begin the program on July 19. The 18-hour program of study approved by the Indiana Legislature is being interpreted by the IPSB and likely will be implemented as a separate post-baccalaureate program.
4. C. Leland reported that the **Subcommittee on Interdepartmental Communication** has discussed the pilot phase of the secondary performance assessment, which did not go as smoothly as had been hoped. Students reported that they did not understand what they were supposed to do and had no clear idea of why they were being asked to do it. The instructors' explanation that they were participating in the "field test of an instrument" was misinterpreted as "They're using us as guinea pigs for some research project." Potential solutions for the

problems that occurred include building expectations for the assessment component into course syllabi, asking content instructors to introduce the assessment, and using clearer instructions for the task students are asked to do.

5. B. Wilcox summarized progress on the Standards-Based Teacher Education Project (STEP). The **STEP** budget includes some funds to support the work of SOE and SLA/SOS faculty on aligning content in general education courses with IPSB and INTASC standards and the Principles of Undergraduate Learning. B. Osgood reported that he had met with social studies teachers at North Central High School to review content standards, instructional activities, and assessment measures they were using. Osgood suggested that this material could be helpful as the SOE/SLA/SOS teams begin their work.

Wilcox announced that the next **STEP national meeting** will take place in **Washington June 10-12, 2001**. Travel funds are available for a team of IUPUI faculty. COTE members are urged to contact Wilcox if they would like to attend the meeting.

6. B. Wilcox initiated discussion of the **Unit Assessment System**, which provides multiple sites for assessing students' knowledge, skills, and dispositions. The general education courses taught by SLA and SOS faculty provide the first sites for assessment. In fact, assessment should begin in freshman learning communities, continue in introductory and more advanced content courses, and culminate in capstone courses in the SLA and SOS disciplines. Reviewing student work resulting from these assessments could bring faculty together for fruitful discussions about pedagogy, including assessment. Incentives for encouraging faculty to engage in these time-consuming tasks were discussed. Since not every faculty member will become involved, getting the work done must be considered a departmental responsibility.

T. Banta suggested that a meeting of deans and department chairs be convened to discuss these matters. Banta will prepare a letter to the deans whose faculty have served on COTE during 2000-01 expressing appreciation for their contributions to the Council.