

COMMITTEE ON TEACHER EDUCATION (COTE)

Friday, May 11, 2007
Administration Building – AO 103
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA –

1. Prospects for 2008 Symposium Speaker T. Banta
2. Follow-up Discussion of Jim Gee's Ideas Sasha Barab,
Instructional Systems Technology
professor at IUB
3. Program Reviews Required by the State..... L. Houser
4. K-12 Issue L. Hurt, J. Bertsch
5. Policy Council Recommendations T. Banta

MINUTES –

Members present: K. Baird, T. Banta, S. Blackwell, C. Borgman, C. Cowen, S. Fox, L. Hurt, C. Leland, K. Nguyen, P. Seabrook, C. Toll, J. Vessely, M. Wokeck.

1. **Speakers for Spring 2008 Symposium.** Toll asked about the purpose of the symposium. Banta noted that the purpose has not been clearly articulated, but in general we try to broaden the COTE discussion to include members of the larger K-12 and higher education communities by bringing in a noted speaker/discussion leader to outline a topic of contemporary interest. Toll and Blackwell observed that we have not been effective in following up to ensure that some response to each symposium is undertaken.

Several approaches to the 2008 symposium were explored. Should we even have a noted speaker, or should we organize discussion groups around a theme aimed at legislative action or improvement of some aspect of our collective work as teacher educators?

2. **Follow-up to 2007 Spring Symposium.** Sasha Barab, distinguished professor in the Instructional Systems Technology Department at IU Bloomington, is building on the work Jim Gee presented at the March 30 symposium to create video games for students in grades 4-6. Barab described and demonstrated QuestAtlantis, a 3-dimensional multi-user environment that capitalizes on students' fascination with video games to help them develop deeper understanding of concepts such as environmental conservation. Barab has funding from the McArthur Foundation to support his work. He offers an on-line in-service course for teachers to help them learn to use his creations to enhance student learning. Baird and Toll were most interested in potential collaboration with Barab, but the interest in his topic was universal among COTE members.