

EFE Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 26th, 2025

Facilitator: Dr. Donielle Stephens, Director of Educational Field Experiences

1. Enrollment and Student Teaching Updates

- **Current Enrollment Statistics:**
 - Intro Block: 58 students (32 TAP)
 - Intermediate Block: 107 students (52 TAP, 2 SPED)
 - Senior Block: 65 students (33 TAP)
 - Spring 2025: 135 total student teachers
 - Students studying abroad
 - Fall 2025: 64 students registered for student teaching; expected total ~93
 - **New BS Degree in Secondary/K12 Education:**
 - Pending IHL approval, launching on Gulf Coast campus
 - Heavily scholarshipped
 - Same content areas, housed in the School of Education
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2. Professional Development Seminar (PDS) and Workshops

- **January PDS:**
 - Higher attendance than previous years
 - Covered licensure, job interviews, and breakout sessions:
 - *Top 5 Classroom Management Behavior Strategies*
 - *Parent Talk 101*
 - *Unlocking Student Engagement*
 - Sessions catered to both K12 and elementary students
 - **Success Story:** Senior block student met district representatives at job fair, completed student teaching there, and secured a job.
 - **Mark McLeod's Classroom Management Workshop:**
 - Plan to offer to mentors as well
 - **Poverty Simulation:**
 - USM staff trained to run the simulation
 - Role-playing experience highlighting resource management challenges
 - Capacity to train ~40 people per session
 - Opportunity to offer simulation to districts
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3. Teacher Job Fair & Mentor Teacher Opportunities

- **Teacher Job Fair:**
 - 36 school districts registered from across the U.S.

- **Mentor Teacher Opportunities:**
 - Can earn CEUs or Course Scholarships
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4. Grant Funding & Residency Programs

- **MCARE Program Approval:**
 - \$1.7 million in grant funding secured
 - **Residency Programs:**
 - Three different programs:
 - Undergraduate Residency
 - Graduate Residency
 - Teacher Assistant
 - Provides tuition support and stipends
 - 15 districts signed on
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5. Accreditation & Assessment

- **CAEP Accreditation:**
 - Self-study report due summer 2025
 - Spring site visits planned
 - Districts encouraged to participate
 - **Employer Impact Survey:**
 - Evaluates effectiveness of program graduates
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6. Advisory Board Feedback & Hiring Preferences

- **Where Do Districts Want to Hire Teachers From?**
 - Preference for teachers with 3-8 years of experience
 - Residency students seen as better prepared than traditional student teachers
- **Concerns & Needs in Hiring:**
 - **Reading Instruction (Science of Reading):**
 - Concern over depth of knowledge in teaching reading skills
 - Need for more comprehensive training
 - **SPED & Inclusion Programs:**
 - Low student interest in stand-alone SPED programs
 - Alternative endorsement options more cost-effective
 - **Math Instruction:**
 - Preference for teachers who can teach math conceptually rather than procedurally
 - Need for additional methods courses in math
 - **Field Experience Variety:**

- Student teaching now requires observation in another grade level/subject area
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7. Are USM Graduates ‘Day 1’ Classroom Ready?

- **Strengths:**
 - Residency students are more prepared than traditional student teachers
 - Lucky Day students show strong potential
 - Preference for hiring student teachers who have completed placements within the district
 - **Areas for Improvement:**
 - Need stronger focus on Science of Reading
 - More training in behavior management and social skills development (Conscious Discipline)
 - Need to equip teachers to adapt instruction when procedural approaches fail
 - Some teachers lack confidence in math instruction due to required standards
 - More training on connecting with students and adjusting classroom strategies
 - **COVID Impact:**
 - Recent student teachers and senior block participants are more prepared compared to those from COVID years
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8. District Contributions to Student Development

- **Suggestions for Enhancing Teacher Preparation:**
 - Bus trips for students to tour schools
 - Field trips for USM Teacher Ed faculty
 - More face-to-face interaction with principals to discuss key topics:
 - *Student teacher rights*
 - *Classroom authority*
 - **Positive District Feedback:**
 - Appreciation for USM’s timely responses and flexibility in resolving conflicts between CTs and students
 - **New Weekly Report:**
 - Helping CTs proactively report dispositional issues or general concerns
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Meeting Adjourned.