



FALL 2007 CONFERENCE MINUTES

University of North Florida

Jacksonville, Florida ~ October 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by FACTE President Scott Hewit. He quickly introduced the Executive Board and thanked the University of North Florida (UNF), specifically the co-hosts, Marsha Lupi and Clara Torres who recognized Pearson Prentice Hall for sponsoring the breakfast. Rather than call for introductions around the room, Scott requested that all those attending their first FACTE meeting, stand. He announced that we had 115 pre-registrations and a number of walk-ins. He was very pleased with the turnout! The theme for the meeting was: “Advocacy to Action.” Scott commented on the powerful group of professionals we had participating in this meeting and that it was “time (for us) to stand up and not only be at the table but to direct the table regarding teacher education.”

Larry Daniel, UNF Dean of Education, was invited to the podium for an introduction. He thanked Scott for all he does for FACTE, along with the Executive Committee. Larry noted the reception this evening after the meeting and invited all to attend. Then he introduced the University of North Florida’s president, Dr. John Delaney. Dr. Delaney noted that UNF had five flagship programs across the University. He stressed the need for all to advocate for education. He was stunned that there was not more public outcry about educational issues. However, he noted that only one person in five has a child in a public school; so that only 20% of the public have a connection to the public school system. Dr. Delaney discussed term limits in the legislature and that with limits come new faces without the history. This, then, requires us to focus on what new legislators are thinking. For example, we needed help with pay for teachers, not help with recruitment. He noted that “the Chancellor asked him to speak about budgets” and Dr. Delaney commented “that our future will only go as far as our educational system will take us.” In other words, “if we cut funding, we cut opportunities for our future.” Finally, he discussed the positive impact that last night’s UNF Scholarship Award program had on him. He concluded his remarks by noting that a jazz trio would be playing at the reception this evening.

Scott introduced Mary Harrill-McClellan as a “special person to us.” She aids AACTE advocacy efforts on educational issues and serves as the staff liaison for colleges. She graduated from the Florida educational system by attending Stetson University.

Summary of Presentation and Discussion

Ms. Harrill-McClellan showed a PowerPoint entitled: “Is that a light at the end of the tunnel?” She noted that our state chapter, FACTE, was “doing it right!” She commented that the Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. was “great” with 163 people, 23 of whom were from Florida.

AACTE had an orientation for members discussing the federal scene, including House and Senate bills. She noted that both made cuts: the House cut funding of Title II dollars; while the Senate also cut funding. The House did some reconciliation legislation on the TEACH Grants (i.e., tuition for teaching); however, the president issued a “veto” threat. She noted Kate Walsh from the National Center on Teacher Quality when discussing alternative certification, the NCLB Commission, and the grade of “C” for schools/colleges/departments of education (SCDOEs). She stated that “Congress was interested in looking at income inequalities for those attending college; population changes were occurring with more Hispanic students attending than ever before. This is very different than the population attending college during the last 13 years. Also of note was the NAEP Reading and Math scores-scores were progressing; that the rate of proficiency was not great news, with 40% achievement gaps remaining.

Mary discussed civic engagement by looking at who is registering to vote and encouraged us all to contact public officials because only 40% of the population is engaged. “Young folks are not really engaged,” although she noted that FSU had one class write letters regarding the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants.

Ms. Harrill-McClellan noted that today’s children are not involved with reading, by citing the statistic that only one-in-four children read. She urged us to engage children as citizens especially in learning languages and cultures—and not only engage them in reading and math. As an example, Mary cited educational issues “post Katrina.” She noted that 138,000 students missed two months of school and that between 20,000-30,000 students did not attend school last year. During the 2006-07 school year, 10,000-15,000 students were still out of school.

Mary called for a “plea to help Congress address issues.” She provided a handout noting:

- a. Two Title II Education Acts
- b. Title II and NCLB-not reauthorized before election
- c. Higher Education Reconciliation
- d. Higher Education Legislation

She further noted that “all eyes are towards the elections,” with the Democrats under pressure for looking at higher education with accountability, access, and affordability issues. She commented that the administration was very focused on outcomes, with Spellings urging the overhaul of higher education. The accreditation rule is changing which will be addressed in the Reauthorization Bill for Higher Education.

Are our candidates successful? Mary touched on several topics noted below:

1. Higher Education Reconciliation (Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants) completed
 - a. Minority Institutions \$50 million-strengthen teacher preparation programs
 - b. TEACH grants-up front money for those interested in teaching (\$4000/year for undergraduate students; \$8000/year for graduate students. To obtain, students must have a 3.25 GPA, be in the top quarter of their graduating class, and commit to teach for four years in high needs schools)
2. Higher Education Reauthorizations in the Senate

- a. Access, affordability, and accountability are key
 - b. College watch-list of program costs and a study on college costs, with recommendations forthcoming
 - c. Shorten FAFSA form from 10 pages to 2 (targeting online completion—currently 94% of applications are completed online)
 - d. Teach for America (TFA) – Senate is looking at comparative studies between TFA teachers’ vs. non-TFA teachers’ impact on student learning
 - e. Early Childhood Task Force looking at competencies to strengthen articulation agreements
 - f. Title II: Teacher Quality Enhancements Grants – Senate action—let go of recruitment grants, to focus on partnerships and clinical components so that the first year is a teacher residency program in K-12 schools, with second year induction program, so that there is a significant amount of time in classrooms
3. NCLB-House drafted legislation for discussion
- a. Kennedy and Miller interested in reauthorizing—discussion draft formally introduced in a bill by November which provides more flexibility in determining school progress
 - b. John Glenn Academies—lots of dollars for summer workshop for STEM education—3000 students in STEM fields
 - c. More focus on clinical education and mentoring for teachers
 - d. Focus on math/science partnerships with institutes of higher education
 - e. More focus on school leadership in two areas: developing school leaders and leadership professional development opportunities
4. Competitive Legislation, such as STEM Education (“We all can come together on this.”)
- a. America’s Compete Act
 - b. Centers of excellence needed in secondary schools, divisions of SCDOEs, and professional development schools (PDSs)
 - c. Encouragement of new bachelor degree programs between STEM and masters’ degree in sciences
 - d. National Math Panel Report due in February
 - e. National Science Board P-20 alignment of standards under development
 - f. Head Start discussions under way
5. Appropriations—House passed all – Senate only passed four
6. Winners and Losers:
- a. Winners in funding:
 - i. Title I and IDEA, major increases
 - ii. Title II – increased \$300,000,000
 - iii. FIPSE increase
 - iv. Pell Grant increases
 - b. Losers in funding:
 - i. Reading First
 - ii. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants
 - c. Other:
 - i. Expanded forgiveness loans
 - ii. Cuts subsidies to lenders
 - iii. New student loan auction program

- iv. Mandatory appending programs
7. Key Policy Issues Facing Congress:
 - a. What does it mean to have a highly qualified teacher preparation program? (Consensus must be reached on what this means)
 - b. Address teacher supply and retention
 - c. Ways to measure program effectiveness, through data systems
 - d. Examining teacher “pay for performance” (AACTE has no formal position)

Ms. Harrill-McClellan strongly urged all to help in the following areas:

1. Constructing data systems for accountability and information
2. Teacher retention, mentoring, and induction
3. Encourage individuals to become teachers (e.g., career-changers and non-traditional students) plus find ways to support students in programs (e.g., student services and clinical components)

Her concluding remarks noted that Florida is a model, like Minnesota, where FACTE is making connections. There is “power in numbers, seek third-party endorsements, encourage graduates of programs to go on the Hill, and work with the Department of Education. Your next steps are to build an advocacy agenda in Tallahassee.”

She announced that the next AACTE Day on the Hill is June 18-19, 2008, in Washington, D.C. She encouraged us all to participate and “bring teacher candidates and graduate students...as they send great messages.”

Handout:

- Appropriations-Federal Opportunities for Educator Preparation
- Bill Status of Key Federal Education Legislation

Scott thanked Ms. Harrill-McClellan and announced that questions would be taken after the break and with the panel.

There was a ten-minute break. (10:45)

Jennifer Platt reconvened the meeting at 10:55 and introduced a panel comprised of:

- Marcy Driscoll, Dean, Florida State University
- Tom Dana, Professor and Director, University of Florida
- Scott Hewit, Director of Teacher Education, Rollins College
- Mary Harrill-McClellan, AACTE

Jennifer began by discussing the 2007 AACTE Day on the Hill (June 21-22). She noted that 30 states were represented by 163 representatives. She shared that the AACTE State Leaders Institute met to share advocacy strategies for what to do on the Hill. “AACTE did a tremendous job preparing us.” She noted that there were 23 Florida representatives, including students, faculty, and principals. “AACTE gave great suggestions on how to set meetings; provided

talking points for the Hill visits, including ‘does and don’ts.’ All reinforced that ‘snail-mail’ was ineffective; fax or email is best.” She reiterated that Florida was seen as one of the leading states. All of the Florida participants split up and visited different offices. She noted that folders with information were left with all who were visited. The impact of the visits became evident with the follow up.

She then turned to the panel and asked for individual comments.

Marcy’s (FSU) comments emphasized:

- Bill Nelson’s Office: Standing room only; one teacher made a passionate plea—could hear a pin drop
- Involved in Tallahassee and felt she had “an obligation to put a face to our issues”
- Strength in numbers
- FSU set up meetings with Senators; others went to see Representatives
- Group met before meeting with Senator Nelson
- Had the AACTE script
- An assistant principal and teacher put a personal touch on teaching; the anecdotes were highly effective
- Need to do again
- Excited to do something in Tallahassee. She met with Jon Rogers, Sandy Robinson, Bill Proctor, and others
- A “need to be partners and to serve as resources so that Legislators reach out to us...we are here to help, so to speak”

Tom’s (UF) comments:

- Learned about the processes and trying to pull things together; learned about bill development before going to DC
- AACTE provided pages about our institutions
- *Education Week* and *Education School News* publications cited often and thus influencing federal (and hopefully state) levels
- UF representatives visited two Senators and three Representatives
- Generally, many knew very little about education as indicated by one person who said: “Entitlement things--I’m not voting for that!”
- Issues that arose were related to: principals as effective leaders; new world class math standards (we are teaching more for coverage than mastery); and subject matter as an institutional issue
- Final point – “Personally, exciting to be there; felt empowered, especially with the large number of Floridians there; and therefore highly encourage and suggest that many attend the Tallahassee Day on the Hill”

Scott’s (Rollins—ICUF) thoughts:

- One ICUF representative out of the 23 FACTE members attending the Day on the Hill. Found it disturbing that he was the only ICUF institution represented because “we are reliant on public funding, just as much as SUSs”

- Mary’s presentation the day before the visit to the Hill was extremely helpful on deciding what to say to staffers
- Reflecting on teachers, “We all need a kick in the pants. What are we doing on campuses to promote activism on our campuses?”
- Increase visibility in Tallahassee, and challenged ICUF institutions to become more involved
- Bob O’Leary at last night’s meeting was a plea for Florida – “We have a lot to worry about...serious talking about going to Tallahassee in March and we need more representatives in DC
- Party lines are blurred; as a life-long Democrat, with Congress having a historically democratic agenda, he found that the responsiveness and interest to representatives was not received as predicted by party lines. There are a lot of Republicans in Florida concerned about the same issues. He also suggested that Democrats do not necessarily fully understand the issues, like full opportunity to influence others. He saw Republicans more open minded than he thought
- Next June, important for us to know who is campaigning in DC and Tallahassee and to do whatever it takes to be successful in the ’08 elections—more important than any other issue
- He was surprised about the intelligence of staffers, the “hum” in offices, and not just the day there; the level of activity was frantic
- Bottom-line, he “was proud to walk hallways as a representative from Florida. He reiterated that it is our responsibility to inform many.”

Mary (AACTE) called for next steps: to establish a Florida Day on the Hill in Tallahassee.

Jennifer asked the panel for other thoughts and called for questions, comments, remarks, etc. from attendees.

Marcy noted that the preparation by AACTE was helpful. Jane West “role played with us and encouraged us to be more assertive in speaking with people on the Hill by giving us words to use, such as: ‘How do you think you might vote on this? This is what we want you to vote on!’”

Jennifer commented that students who attended were nervous at first but soon overcame that feeling by remembering that “those in Washington work for us—they represent us.” AACTE presented attendees with talking points and a Congressional directory. Jennifer commented that the reception in the Senate Building, with a few hundred people including members of Congress, was an excellent way to start the Day on the Hill activities.

Tom commented “that you don’t need a whole team. Scott was solo and just as effective as 15, and we don’t need a student from each institution.”

Questions:

1. Who paid for the UCF students to attend? (Four doctoral students were already there completing internships in Washington, D.C., so there was no cost.)

2. Jennifer asked Mary to comment on two other states that attempted a Day on the Hill (Massachusetts (MA) and Minnesota (MN)), by discussing their experiences, strengths, and weaknesses.

Mary noted that there are two parts to the Day on the Hill: First, one-to-one interaction; and second, briefing of issues. Both MN and MA each focused on one part. In MN, they had a representative from each institution and asked for MACTE members to testify at committees, to have “face time at hearings.” Half of the institutions participated. MN decided on four distinct messages for their Day on the Hill and did not have a chapter meeting then. Thirty-two individuals attended. Next year, they will hold a chapter meeting at the same time as their Day on the Hill.

MA: Held a partnership luncheon briefing a staff person from each legislative office there. Materials were left in offices. Mary said she hoped Tallahassee comes to fruition.

Jennifer asked for additional questions. Hearing none, she thanked the panelists.

The discussion then turned to the Tallahassee Day on the Hill.

Bob Shockley noted that “We were more interested in proactive involvement rather than being in a reactive mode, and asked all if this is something we were ready to do? Did we want to do it?” He noted that the Executive Committee was ready.

Other things to be concerned about:

- Organization and preparation – for the national Day on the Hill, “we had sample letters, talking points, current status of bills, and strategies. AACTE made it successful!”
- “Personally, if we are going to do it, we need to do it right by making a commitment as an organization, either at a State Board meeting or Legislative Session. There is a different posture in Tallahassee than years ago.”
- “We have to decide what we want to do and we are seeking your reactions.”

Tom suggested that we have our Day on the Hill during the Legislative Session.

Scott noted that we could schedule it for the spring FACTE meeting in March, since the Session is in full swing in March. One design is to have the spring meeting in Tallahassee with a two day meeting or potentially hold a three day meeting to “Storm the Hill” on Thursday, usually the day FACTE has for reflections and action. The date is flexible.

Catherine Emihovich: “Should we do this? Yes. The logistics and organization will incur costs. Think about all the dues paid to FACTE and AACTE. This would be a good return on our investment.” Questioned whether AACTE would provide state level support like at the national level.

Mary: "AACTE is telling states to become more active. We can provide technical support by adapting what we do to the state level. Happy to support."

Jennifer: "Could we have a staffer come to Florida to plan and organize?"

Mary: "I think that is possible."

Bob: "One issue of importance: Knowing what is happening and status of bills proposed at this time. We will try to keep you posted, but we do have partners to help such as the superintendents' lobbyists, teachers' associations, etc. All can help to keep us posted on issues. All institutions have a lobbyist; we should all meet with them too and have them do tracking of bills."

Scott: "When do we want an answer as to whether we do it or not?"

Several representatives (UNF, FGCU, UF, St. Leo, UM, and Flagler [Tallahassee]) supported moving forward with the FACTE Day on the Hill in Tallahassee.

Jennifer drew the morning session to a close at 11:55, by asking for final questions, suggestions, comments, before concluding. She appreciated all for listening to people sharing their experiences from the summer's Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C.

Before breaking for lunch, Marsha thanked LiveText for sponsoring our lunch.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:04 p.m. by Theresa Vernetson, who introduced Kathy Hebda, Chief, Educator Recruitment, Development, and Retention and Genae Crump, Program Director for Educator Preparation, Florida Department of Education. The topic of discussion was "Strategies for Continuing Approval."

Kathy introduced the Program Approval unit: Genae Crump, Rebecca Pfeiffer, and Tonya Brown.

Genae gave a synopsis of the following:

1. Rule 6A-5.066 changes
2. Workgroup (with representatives from SUS and ICUF institutions) on rubric development for Program Approval Standards
3. New folios for four institutions were received using the new standards
4. New folios accepted: February 1, June 1, and September 1
5. Reading endorsements were completed and approved for five institutions
6. Two programs sent folios with ESOL Endorsements
7. New Folio Rubric piloted with the following overall scoring:

1=Unacceptable,
2=Needs improvement, and
3=Acceptable

8. New rubric to be posted to DOE website mid-October; but will email to all
9. Just Read Florida looking to help with process
10. Just Read Rubric: Look at each Reading Endorsement Competency. Feedback will be provided by Just Read folks
11. Continuing Program Approval matrices due to the DOE by August 2008
12. Multiple areas needed to be addressed (Reading, FEAPs, Competencies and Skills (C&S), FL SSS, ESOL Standards (and ESOL Competencies—use the crosswalk developed by Gloria and Jane), field/clinical areas (where are issues covered), supervision faculty, and cooperating teachers
13. Reminded all that ESOL needed to be noted at the performance standard level and not the indicator level
14. Reminded all that the Reading C&S (not the Endorsement Competencies) needed to be at the indicator level
15. Additional requirements were in statute
16. Only new performance Standard 1 due in August (2008). Standards 2 and 3 will be looked at onsite
17. Adding Reading endorsement, needed Reading matrix and syllabi
18. For Title II, copy Rebecca for data requests from Ashley
19. FTCE reports are web-based and not sent on a CD any longer
20. Tonya will be in charge of PTOs, there are not deadlines for submissions
21. There are 33 EPIs, again no deadlines for submissions
22. The new DOE Code for Educational Leadership is 285
23. Educational Leadership Rule 6A.5.081 included:
 - a. W. C. Golden School Leadership Development Program involved in program approval for Ed Leadership programs
 - b. Collaboration: School districts and institutions have to work together-- not separately – the Rule calls for “Collaboration” (No amount of collaboration was given; only requires that it happen)
 - c. Continuing Approval guidelines due June 1, 2008 to DOE
 - d. Directed all to February memo regarding new FELE tests and draft C&S
 - e. Increased in FELE retake fees
 - f. Directed all to FELE website
24. Program Approval—EIPEP finished—RFP out
25. New Commissioner—several interviews and have top three candidates. There will be a webcast on October 8th with all three candidates. Potentially, the State Board will select the new Commissioner that day as well.
26. Gave a handout of things currently underway

Kathy thanked all for their thoughts regarding her mother.

There was a quick break called.

At 2:30 p.m., Eliah Watlington introduced Bob O’Leary, Interagency Affairs Consultant, to discuss updates from ICUF. He highlighted five threads:

1. **Struggles between quality and quantity:** Fewer students are in schools; there is a shift in quality; the DOE determining how to examine quality; “We know a lot about counting quantity, but we should all help define quality—if we don’t someone else will for us.”
2. **Less money:** Things might get funded that might not work and things will be thrown out that are bad.
3. **Red tape:** Trend away from standard response and a focus on regulations, which is not all bad. Sometimes regulations are put into place because of hearing others. Largest organization is Homeland Security.
4. **Innovation** started up: Several grant programs; DOE looking for innovations—the problem isn’t looking for innovations; just a need to send good ideas.
5. **Term-limits** are terrible. Term limits-churned around decision-makers. Not most important who-but what you know. New governor is searching for consensus. Keep up with current trends.

Bottom-line, the message that Bob related focused on all “pushing the ball in the same direction. While we agree on the same things, we just can’t be pushing in all different directions.”

Scott thanked Bob and called for break from 2:45-3:00 p.m., reminding all of the Business Meeting to follow at 3:00 p.m.



BUSINESS MEETING

The Business meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Scott Hewit. A roll call of the institutions began the meeting.

The following institutions were *absent*: Chipola, Clearwater Christian, Florida College, Nova Southeastern, St. Thomas, University of Miami, University of Tampa, and the University of West Florida. *Affiliated Member Institutions absent*: Broward, Brevard, Florida Community College, Hillsborough Community College, Lake City, Lake Sumter, Manatee, Palm Beach Community College, Pasco-Hernando Community College, and Valencia Community College.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Debra Blenis; Jane Giovanni seconded. Motion carried.

Acceptance of March 2007 Minutes: Tentative Approval based on posting or final approval at March meeting. Motion made; seconded. Motion carried.

Treasure's Report: Theresa presented a budget which showed Projected Revenue and Expenses compared to Actual Revenue and Expenses for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007. The Projected Revenue reported was \$26,850.00 vs. the Actual Revenue of \$39,353.95. Projected Expenses were \$34,250.00 vs. Actual Expenses of \$44,700.71. A balance of \$20,402.52 remained as of June 30, 2007.

Scott asked for an increase in the Director's travel budget of \$1000; moved as such, seconded; and made as a "friendly amendment."

Bob Shockley led a discussion about the reception at the Annual AACTE meeting, noting the value of getting people together. "Florida hosting a reception at a national meeting sends a message that we want to be partners with all."

David Cook asked about a budget for Tallahassee, noting that nothing had been moved to cover costs.

Scott asked for approval of the Treasurer's Report; motion made, seconded, and carried.

Scott gave a brief President's Report noting the following:

1. The Executive Committee held many conference calls (three-to-four times) during the year; proposed and planned these meetings, where the Committee meets throughout most of the Annual meetings.

2. Revised bylaws to include a third standing committee, Research Committee to be chaired by Marsha Lupi; AACTE approved (The other two standing committees are Professional Development and Policy).
3. Asked for members to be part of an Ad Hoc Data Warehouse Committee-Victoria. Giordano, Larry Daniel, and Catheryn Weitman volunteered. Victoria to request a web meeting.
4. Marsha, Jane Giovanni (for Gloria Pelaez), and Eliah proposed a core of four to six members to serve as an ongoing work group for their committees. They will serve as a core group to work throughout the year. This is different than what we did in the past. Jump start committees; members should approach chairs and volunteer to work.

Bob gave a brief Executive Director's report which included:

1. Trish Parrish to help with the electronic newsletter
2. Redesigning website, with minutes, FACTE logo, etc.
3. Betty Blue's retirement: The Executive Committee brought her a special gift. Contributions collected from FACTE members were over \$1100
4. Involved in AACTE State Leadership Meetings, held twice a year. Florida is one of the few to include the Executive Director, President, and President-elect
5. Standing Committee reports: Role is to keep current and to provide technical assistance
6. We are working closely with other groups in the state to share common issues and concerns, such as teachers' associations

Jennifer: Briefly reported on AACTE's State Leaders Institute, noting that "it was a great opportunity to be up close and personal with AACTE staff. Eliah, Scott, and Bob were great speakers. Always a great agenda."

Jane (for Gloria), Policy Committee: Plans for this year included work with all for the Day on the Hill. The Committee welcomes issues and concerns of others interested in joining the committee.

Marsha, Research Committee: Old business: "stated that the nature of the Research Committee is exciting because of what it will do, especially because we'd like to involve doctoral students and faculty through use of grants."

Eliah, Professional Development: Reminded all of the Educational Technology Conference and encouraged all to join. Currently the committee is working for the Professional Development Day at that conference on January 22, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob introduced the Nominating Committee that included the following:

Jennifer Platt, Chair
 Debra Blenis, Florida Tech University
 Michele Gregoire, Flagler College
 Bob Shockley, Florida Atlantic University

Bob noted that three offices were open. The positions were: President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Committee nominated the following individuals:

Terry Fasel (Warner Southern), President-elect
Jan Yates, (Nova Southeastern), Secretary
Mike Stewart (University of South Florida), Treasurer

A motion was made to accept the nominees, seconded; carried.

Bob congratulated all in their new positions.

Bob then began to discuss the Tallahassee Day on the Hill noting that he will work with FSU to help with logistics. He put forth a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to explore the possibility of planning and implementing a Day on the Hill in the spring. This would not necessarily be in conjunction with the FACTE spring meeting. Gloria and her committee would communicate with all. The feasibility study would also look at costs, timing, and lodging.

Vivian Fueyo made the motion proposed by Bob; Mildred Berry (Florida Memorial) seconded; motion carried.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes approved October 17, 2008.