

April 24, 2011

TO: Angela Coleman
Board of Regents

FROM Jim Marshall
University of Georgia

RE: K-credit Courses

Early this year, Angela Coleman contacted Jim Marshall and asked him to form a committee which would flesh out the details of a proposal made at a recent EPAAC meeting. The proposal would allow USG institutions to give EDUC college credit to high schools students who take approved high school courses and pass a newly developed state test demonstrating their competence on the content of university-level EDUC courses. More specifically Angela asked the committee to oversee the following tasks:

- 1) Collect information, as available, about the test and its administration and scoring for dissemination to colleges of education. It was her understanding that because the DOE is using NOCTI (a private testing company) only so much information will be made available.
- 2) Recommend to EPAAC a guideline for the lower limits for acceptable course grade(s) earned in Pathway courses for students seeking K-credit.
- 3) Recommend to EPACC an acceptable lower limit on the cut-score earned on the assessment for students seeking K-credit. She hoped that the validity study would be completed before EPAAC
- 4) Recommend system-wide processes or approaches, as applicable, that should be employed in processing requests for K-credit. She suggested that there might be little structure that can or should be placed on this at the system level.

Angela recommended a committee that included Vicki Mclain from CCSG, Beth Marks from KSU, Betty Hipps from CSU, and Amy Wohler from Muscogee County Schools. All four colleagues agreed to serve on the committee. Our recommendations follow:

- 1) A description of the test, entitled the “Teaching as a Profession Pathway Assessment Blueprint”, is attached to this memo. The test will include 100 multiple-choice items, with 35 focusing on Examining the Teaching Profession and 65 focusing on Contemporary Issues in Education.
- 2) The committee had an on-line discussion about the minimum grade that should be required for students taking the courses for K-credit. There was consensus agreement among committee members that the minimum grade should be “C” since that is the minimum grade accepted at most USG institutions for EDUC courses. The committee also felt, however, that students seeking K-credit should also be assessed on the professional dispositions they display. To that end, we have attached to this memo two disposition surveys: one to be completed by a student seeking K-credit, and the second to be completed by a teacher working with the student in the K-credit courses. These surveys were developed at the University of Georgia as part of its PSC review process.
- 3) A description of the process used to set the cut score for the test was provided by Laura Ergle, of the State Department of Education. She wrote:

“The cut score method used was the Jaeger method. This method requires the panel to make judgments on each individual item on the assessment, determining which items an examinee should be able to answer correctly to be considered competent. The Jaeger method requires that a panel adopt a criterion question to serve as the basis for making judgments on the criticality of the items on the test. The criterion question used for this assessment was: *“Is it essential that an individual answer this item correctly to be considered a competent completer of the CTAE Teaching as a Profession Program?”* The cut score determined by the panel (made up of secondary teachers, business/industry and post secondary), based on the Jaeger method was 51.5%.”
- 4) Following Angela’s suggestion, the committee felt that there should little centralized oversight over USG institutions’ acceptance of K-credit. All USG institutions will require that students pass the Teaching as a Profession test, submit the two disposition surveys, and earn a grade of at least “C” in the high school pathway courses. Individual USG institutions may develop their own relationships with surrounding school districts that wish to participate in the program, and those institutions will oversee the credit-acceptance process. Once K-credit has been accepted by one USG institution, other USG institutions will accept the credit if students choose to transfer to those other institutions.

We respectfully submit this proposal as an action item for the EPACC meeting in late April, 2011.