

# UConn

## NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### Curricula & Courses Committee

To: C&C Committee Members

From: John Zack, Chair

Date: February 28, 2024

Re: Minutes of the Curricula & Courses Committee Meeting held February 20, 2024

In attendance via Microsoft Teams: John Zack, Rachael Gabriel, Adam McCready, Mike Young, Ann Traynor, Dorothea Anagnostopoulos and Diane Matteau

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1) Approval of the December 2023 meeting minutes

- *John Zack began the meeting at 10:02am. Present at this time were Zack, Adam, Mike, Ann and Diane. Alex and Jaci were not able to attend but voted electronically with their approval on each agenda item. Mike Young made a motion to adopt the December 2023 minutes. Adam seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. (6-0).*

2) New Courses

**a) EDCI 5865: Multicultural Education in the Content Areas (CAR 24-24310)**

**Proposed Catalog Copy:**

Multicultural Education in the Content Areas

This seminar course explores equity and justice in schools and society. In particular, we focus on multicultural education in the content areas as a way to understand the interrelationships between students' identities and cultures and their experiences in schools.

- *Zack reviewed the new course proposal above and opened it up for discussion. (Rachael and Dorothea joined the meeting at this time.)*
- *Mike Young brought up his concerns regarding the link in the syllabus to the Guiding Principles of the Black Lives Matter Movement, feeling that the entire first flash page was very political to him. This includes headings like donate, signup, endorse. The guiding principles of restorative justice, diversity, globalism, etc. you have to scroll down to see them. They don't seem multicultural; they seem to be explicitly about unapologetically black such as #12 for example. As the required reading that is directly linked to the request that's officially documented for the class, we should keep explicitly political materials out of course documentations. It doesn't seem appropriate to do this.*
- *Ann shared that she does not agree. Multicultural education is always going to be political. Perhaps using 'donate' is an issue, but otherwise sees no concerns.*
- *Adam feels this is part of a guiding framework laying the ground of the ethos for the course and giving it context. Does not have the same reservations. Anything teaching around diversity, equity, and inclusion is going to be perceived potentially as political. Adam is supportive of the framework proposed for the course.*

- *After further discussion, the Committee decided to approve the course contingent on the following changes to the syllabus and the CAR:*
  - *Have an increased emphasis on multicultural education in the content areas within the objectives.*
  - *Flesh out the course calendar with at least some topics of focus for each week and timing of assignments, including when students are working on creating discipline-specific curriculum.*
  - *Provide a detailed list of texts from Rethinking Schools that reflect multicultural curriculum in each of the content areas, e.g., Rethinking Mathematics (Math); Reading, Writing, and Rising Up (English); A People's Curriculum for the Earth (Science and Agriculture), A People's History for the Classroom (History); Rethinking Bilingual Education (World Language).*

*For the CAR:*

- *Edit the sentence: While it is important to understand how systems of privilege and power shape opportunities for individuals and groups, it is equally important for all of us to understand and examine **and** how our social and physical location has shaped our worldviews over time and continue to shape our worldviews in potentially helpful and harmful ways as it relates to teaching and learning in your content area.*
  - *Revise the learning objectives listed in the CAR and catalog copy to embed more focus on teaching and learning in the content area.*
- *Adam made a motion to approve the course pending these changes, Mike seconded, and all voted in favor. Zack will email Alyssa with the friendly revisions above. (7-0).*

**APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT:** February 7, 2024

**APPROVAL BY DEPT. HEADS:** February 7, 2024

**APPROVAL BY C&C COMMITTEE:** February 20, 2024 (revised CAR/syllabus received 2/22/2024)

**APPROVAL BY NEAG FACULTY:** February 28, 2024

### 3) Program Revisions

#### a) Educational Leadership EdD (GPAR 24-BURT-7DM3FN)

Change of location for Existing Program – from Storrs to Hartford

**Explanation:** The Educational Leadership EdD program is a professional degree program that attracts applications from full-time working professionals from across the tri-state area. The courses (2 per semester) for the EdD program meet during the evening (from 4pm - 9pm) one day per week during the fall & spring semesters. Currently, most students enrolled in the EdD travel from across CT (or the tri-state area) to attend their classes in Storrs. This results in a significant travel burden for these working professionals. Further, some qualified applicants decline admission to the program because of the requirement to attend in-person courses on the Storrs campus. Moving the EdD program to Hartford provides a central location and decreases travel times for most of the students enrolled. We believe that locating the program in Hartford will also increase enrollment as the burden of traveling to in-person courses one day per week will be reduced (e.g., many education professionals in the Fairfield County area seek opportunities outside of CT because traveling to Storrs is a hindrance).

- *Zack reviewed the program revision above. Adam spoke about how changing this program to Hartford should attract more folks who would not normally travel to Storrs, Hartford will be more conducive. Adam also mentioned this change would not affect the current cohort of*

*students. Ann made a motion to approve this change, Mike seconded, and all voted in favor.  
(7-0)*

**APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT:** February 12, 2024  
**APPROVAL BY DEPT. HEADS:** February 12, 2024  
**APPROVAL BY C&C COMMITTEE:** February 20, 2024  
**APPROVAL BY NEAG FACULTY:** February 28, 2024

- *The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.*