

CCAC Highlights – January 2010 CTC Meeting Highlights

The new Chair of the Commission, Ting Sun, announced at the beginning of the meeting that Margaret Gaston was not re-appointed for a second term to the Commission.

Important Agenda Action Items

Report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Secretary of Education on the Comparability of Coursework for Sponsors of Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs

The Commission acted to adopt the report, not only for distribution to the government officials mandated by law, but also to the COA and to program sponsors generally. While the document refers specifically to a Special Education context, the principles for determination of whether or not a candidate has completed part of program outside of the coursework and what level of documentation best supports a program's equivalency decision are applicable to all credential programs.

The item includes scenarios, which were noted as being helpful, which address common issues that arise when credential candidates wish to obtain credit for work done outside the program. Program sponsors might want to review their current equivalency procedures in light of the context provided by this item.

For more information see the agenda item:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2D.pdf>

Proposed Preconditions for Speech Language Pathology Services Credential Programs

The proposed specific preconditions the Speech Language Pathology Credential were adopted by the Commission.

For more information see the agenda item:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2B.pdf>

Recommended Passing Score Standard for the CSET: Less Commonly Taught Languages Other Than English Alternative Standardized Assessment

The proposed procedure for developing CSET examinations for languages which are not frequently taught in California's public schools was adopted and passing scores were set for Hebrew and Portuguese. The procedure will be applied to additional languages when necessary.

For more information see:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2C.pdf>

Other Non-Action Agenda Items of Interest

Recommendations from the English Learner Authorizations Advisory Panel

The English Learner Advisory Panel has made a number of significant proposals to increase the effectiveness of instruction to English Learners in California's schools. The central motivation for the panel's work was the belief that the continuing gap in the performance of English Learners in our schools indicates that the preparation of teachers to address this population is not yet sufficient. It was also noted that the mandated one year limit on the length of the teacher preparation programs in California obviously limits the amount of content any basic credential program can provide.

One proposal was to limit the level of ELD preparation provided by basic credential programs, especially at the secondary credential level. That would allow Single Subject program to focus more effectively on subject-matter specific SDAIE methodology. A related proposal was the possible creation of a credential authorization that allowed the teaching of either ELD or English as a new language. (Credential holders who currently have an authorization to teach ELD would not be impacted should any of these recommendations be adopted.)

Other proposals recommend the review of Counseling and Administrative Services program standards to make sure the needs of EL students are fully reflected in the preparation candidates in those programs receive.

On a slightly lighter note, the panel recommended that the Commission move to change the current "foreign language" or "languages other than English" terminology to "world languages" in conformity with the CDE and the field.

These proposals will be reviewed by staff and not brought forward as action items before being presented as least one more time as informational items.

For more information see:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2F.pdf>

Plan for a Study of the Preparation of Leaders for California Schools

It was noted by staff during the presentation of this item that administrator preparation program standards in California have not undergone a full top to bottom review since 1970. Staff proposes to have an advisory panel in place by June that will conduct a full review of the standards and credential structure and report to the Commission in July 2011. The staff proposal will return as an action item at a future meeting.

For more information see:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2E.pdf>

Proposed Precondition for Bilingual Authorization Programs Offered Through an Intern Program Delivery Model

This proposal to make a specific minimum level of target language competence a requirement before an individual could serve as an intern in a bilingual classroom will return as an action item at a future meeting.

For more information see:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2G.pdf>

Legislative Update

AB 1374 Brownley

This bill, which is sponsored by the Commission, would make changes to the Designated Subject credential which were proposed last year. The bill has passed the house of origin and is currently in the Senate.

SBX5 1 Steinberg

One element of this bill, which addresses California's response to the federal Race to the Top program, creates an alternative path for credential program sponsorship. The major change is to allow community-based and nongovernmental organizations, along with school districts and county offices, to offer credential program in math, science and career tech. The Commission, in consultation with the Committee on Accreditation, has until June 1 to develop a process to authorize the new program sponsors. Any body offering a program in these areas must respond to all the relevant CTC program standards.

AB 1223 Block

This bill would encourage the CTC to study the possibility of developing a recognition of study and preparation in linked learning/multiple pathways for Single Subject credential holders. The CTC took a support if amended position on the bill.

For more information on this bill see:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-4B-insert.pdf>

Prepared by Mel Hunt, January 2010