

**Urban Teacher Partnership
Oversight Committee Meeting
February 12, 2009
8:30 – 10:00 AM
TIV129**

Participants: Theress Pidick, Susana Cordova, Carol Johnson, Lew Romangano, Dean Joan Foster, Dean Sandra Haynes, Kathy Callum, Charles Igel, Esther Rodriguez, Isabella Muturi Sauve, Giao Giang, Sue Joseph, Jim Loats

Absent: Maria Guajardo, Trudy Clemons, Carrie Harris

Materials Distributed:

- ✓ Agenda
- ✓ Minutes, January 9, 2009
- ✓ UTP January 2009 Budget
- ✓ Spring 2009 Field Placement Data
- ✓ Summary Notes UAS Principals Interviews
- ✓ ELA Articulation Agreement (draft)
- ✓ Great Teachers for Our City Schools Summit– Preliminary Program

Minutes Review and Approval

Ms. Rodriguez welcomed the Committee and requested that the members review the Minutes for the UTP Oversight Committee meeting held January 9, 2009 and make changes or corrections.

Ms. Pidick noted a change in the location of the UAS site coordinators meeting to Hill Middle School not Merrill Middle School. She requested that the record show that the UAS site coordinator position at MLK is vacant, however, school personnel are available to support the UTP program.

Minutes approved.

Budget Review

Ms. Rodriguez noted that there were no significant updates on the Metro side of the program budget. Work continues, but no new activities and funding expenditures were initiated. Ms. Giang indicated that if she makes any new budget changes, they will be sent to the Oversight Committee for review.

Ms. Pidick reviewed with the Committee changes to the DPS-UTP budget. She noted that DPS made adjustments to personnel expenses reflecting bonuses covered under the district's pay for performance program, Pro-Comp. These adjustments have been reflected in the January budget, thus increasing the amount likely for rollover into the no-cost extension year.

Ms. Rodriguez inquired if the UAS site coordinator position at MLK would be filled and new expenditures noted in the budget. Ms. Pidick responded that no new hires would be made and the current Assistant Principal will serve as the site coordinator.

Ms. Rodriguez further inquired if the DPS rollover funds will be used to support the Janus Education Alliance efforts on Teacher Residency Program. Ms. Pidick said that the UTP funds would not support the Teacher Residency Program, however, they would be used to support the “bridge” activities leading to the development of the Center for Urban Education (CUE).

Ms. Pidick asked if UTP had received any further requests from the U.S. Department of Education related to reporting requirements for the no-cost extension. Ms. Rodriguez indicated that she continues to correspond with the TQE program officer, Steve Sniegowski about our request for a no-cost extension. He has indicated informal approval to roll-over grant funds into another year. However, he also indicated that the formal roll-over request should not be submitted before June 2009. At that time, UTP will need to submit a budget demonstrating completion and spend-down of funds on identified activities. He emphasized that no new activities can be initiated during a no-cost extension and no grant funds may be used to support new activities.

UTP Student Field Placements – Spring Semester 2009

Ms. Rodriguez reported that all TED faculty and UAS site coordinators were provide a spreadsheet noting Spring 2009 field placements of UTP students. She asked UTP Data Coordinator, Sue Joseph to provide an update to Oversight Committee members. Ms. Joseph reported that 61 UTP students had been placed in the eight Urban Apprentice Schools. She provided a hand-out showing placements and a bar chart indicating that compared to Fall 2008, 25% more UTP students were placed in the UAS sites in Spring 2009.

Dr. Romagnano noted a drop-off in the first field placement and asked if the staff had information to explain the outcome. Ms. Joseph responded that one possible answer could be the short time allocated for recruiting students into the first field experience. She indicated that UTP staff made several attempts to present at teacher applications meetings, but the meetings had tight agendas and there was time only for brief presentations. UTP scheduled time during the first week of the semester to have Ms. Rodriguez make presentations to all of the education foundations classes introducing UTP and to encourage participation.

Ms. Rodriguez reminded the Committee that UTP recently hired three student ambassadors who would have greater access to teacher education students and could facilitate new student recruitment. They also are charged with establishing a mechanism to better inform Metro students about the UTP program. As part of their assignment, they developed a UTP bulletin board in the Teacher Education Department.

Ms. Pidick thanked Ms. Joseph for her hard work in coordinating the student and school placement data.

UTP Field Placement Analysis

Ms. Rodriguez informed members that Dr. Linda Champney is using a UTP mini-grant to conduct a seminar with cooperating teachers from the eight Urban Apprentice Schools on Saturday, March 14. The goal of the seminar is to hear from cooperating teachers about strategies for effective field placements.

Ms. Rodriguez asked UTP field placement coordinator, Ms. Kathy Callum to update the Committee on conversations that she and Dr. Nancy Kellogg recently conducted with the principals of the eight UAS sites.

Ms. Callum handed out summary notes of the meetings with UTP principals. She reported a strong desire from principals to continue the partnership with UTP and have Metro students placed at their schools. They recognized that the culmination of grant funds would pose a challenge in supporting the needs of Metro students. However, they also indicated that having Metro students in the buildings gave them valuable adult professional support as well. She added that when asked what they could do to sustain the partnership within their own budgets and existing staff, some suggested the possibility of sharing the costs of a site coordinator among multiple schools.

Ms. Callum noted that UTP principals have suggestions for improving the roles of UTP students in the program, including: emphasize the importance of professional dress in the schools; strengthen the comfort level to diverse student populations; exhibit greater independence and initiative; move from passive to active observers and participants in the schools; learn about the schools' School Improvement Plans as a way to be informed about the schools, their priorities and student achievement goals. .

Ms. Carol Johnson asked if some of the UTP site coordinators would be able to earn extra stipends to allow them to continue serving as site coordinators. Ms. Pidick indicated that the suggestion could be raised with principals. Ms. Rodriguez suggested that perhaps some of the site coordinators could be used as trainers or coaches or mentors for cooperating teachers. She added that it was important to figure out ways for people who have participated on the grant to share their skills.

Ms. Callum added that some of the principals were frustrated that the grant is coming to an end at a pivotal time when the relationship between DPS and Metro is maturing. It has taken this time to clarify roles and responsibilities and to feel comfortable as partners.

Ms. Susana Cordova noted that UTP has been instrumental in developing processes and setting up a system in which site coordinators have been identified, and their roles in facilitating and supporting student field placements have been defined. UTP has helped to build an infrastructure that did not previously exist in the district.

ELA Articulation Agreement

Ms. Rodriguez updated the Committee that the ELA articulation agreement between Metro, UCD and DPS is close to being finalized. The document is currently under review by E.J Rodriguez (DPS ELA Director), Linda Curran (Metro's Interim Provost), and (UCD Provost) Roderick Nairn.

Ms. Rodriguez thanked Ms. Pidick for her review and feedback on the agreement and gave credit to Deans Sandra Haynes and Lynn Rhodes for their support, as well as the teacher education faculty at both institutions for their leadership, careful evaluation of coursework and process facilitation. She asked Committee members to review the agreement.

Ms. Pidick suggested that the other items on the agenda, JEA, CUE and Summit updates be postponed to the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.