

## **M-I-N-U-T-E-S**

### Elementary Education Faculty Meeting Block 1, 2 & 3 Practicums: Content, Organization & Delivery Fall 2012

Elementary education faculty present: Mary Heller, Rick Jones, Paula Mathis, Julia Myers, Linda Oba (Lecturer), Carol Price (Lecturer), Jonathan Schwartz, Stephanie Kamai (Field Placement Coordinator), Kristen Urata (Academic Support Specialist)

The meeting took place on August 2, 2012, and began at 9:15 am, E-228, with introductions all around. Faculty welcomed lecturers Carol Price and Linda Oba who will be team-teaching Blocks 1 and 3 with Jonathan and Paula, respectively.

Mary reminded faculty of the primary agenda, which was to ensure that all fall 2012 elementary education practicum instructors were “on the same page” with regard to the content, structure, and delivery of their courses.

Questions that structured the discussion were as follows:

1. What is the nature of the practicum seminars?

Faculty agreed that the seminar is a forum for candidates to debrief what they have been observing, teaching, and learning in their field placement.

Themes held in common across Block 1, 2, & 3 practicum are

- Curriculum & Instruction
- Classroom Management
- Assessment
- Community & Family

Rick & Julia gave an overview of the readings and blogs that they will be implementing this fall in Block 2 math/science practicum seminar, as well as its organization.

Carol Price emphasized the importance of utilizing the standards-based practicum assessment instrument as a tool to enable candidates’ understanding of not only how they are being assessed but also essential elements of quality teaching and learning. Paula reminded us that candidates are introduced to the ten HTSB standards in EDEF 200/201, although the final evaluation focuses only on three standards. Practicum final evaluations include nine of ten standards.

## 2. What are the practicum requirements?

Practicum requirements include a minimum of 45 hours in the field, with at least 3 lesson plans delivered, in the context of the blocks' disciplines---English Language Arts; Math/Science; Social Studies/CLD).

Julia expressed serious concern over candidates' who in the past have finessed their 45 hours requirements by observing for a full school day, five-six weeks at the beginning of the semester. Faculty agree this is not acceptable and will make clear to candidates and mentor teachers the expectation that observations and lesson plan implementation take place throughout the semester.

University supervisors are responsible for observing practicum candidates teach one time during the semester. Standard mileage will be provided by the Division.

## 3. How are the placements coming along?

Stephanie has had several meetings with principals and other school administrators. It has been an on-going concern that candidates are not getting enough exposure to science teaching. She is still exploring the possibilities, including creative ways to place candidates in situations where they can experience science, as well as CLD teaching and learning.

Placement should be finalized in the next few weeks. Kristen reported the following enrollment numbers:

Early Field Experience: 30 anticipated

Block 1: 20

Block 2: 15

Block 3: 19

## 4. What sets our program apart from others?

In her discussions with principals, Stephanie has come to realize that it is important for our program to stand out among the many education programs on island. Surveys of principals and mentor teachers have consistently informed us that our candidates are very well-prepared, when entering the student teaching semester. One reason is likely due to the candidates' real-world classroom experiences, beginning with the early field experience and extending through the blocked practicums.

6. How can we further support and express our appreciation for our mentor teachers?

Stephanie will be looking into possible HDOE, PD3 credit for mentor teachers. The credit would be earned via a mentor teacher orientation or seminar, which would facilitate better understanding of practicum, as well as all field experience expectations. Jonathan reminded us that the HDOE has specific guidelines for their PD initiatives and that these undertakings by university faculty are voluntary, unpaid ventures.

Other ideas for supporting mentor teachers include a Saturday morning mentor teacher seminar, to be conducted each semester; a mentor teacher appreciation luncheon; tokens of appreciation, including certificates, letters, gift cards, and gift bags. Mary will report on budgeting of such token items, at the first Education Division meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

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**Elementary Education Faculty Meeting  
Block 1, 2 & 3 Practicums: Content, Organization & Delivery  
Fall 2012**

**August 2, 9:00-10:30 am  
E-228**

**Agenda**

- Introductions & Welcome to Field Placement Coordinator, Stephanie Kamai, & Lecturers: Linda Oba & Carol Price
- Placement updates & issues relative to Block 1, 2, & 3 target subject areas
- Content: Common themes
- Structure & Delivery: On-campus & on-line components

Supervision: Direct & Indirect