

ABE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 12/8/1999

Members Attending: B. Ash, H. Chernow, D. Branco, J. Koss-Cole, K. DeJesus, M. Forry, J. McCarthy, J. McGovern, S. Martin, S. Waldron, P. Veysey

DOE Staff Attending: B. Bickerton, R. Derfler, M.J. Fay, M. Gillion, S. Petruccelli

SABES Staff Attending: C. Reid

Minutes Compiled by: M.J. Fay

Agenda Item #:

1) Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved with the following changes:
 - next meeting January 6, "2000"
 - change in language in the second to the last bullet "... the committee had a non-binding vote that the Bachelor's..."
- Meeting minutes are a matter of public record: once approved, minutes will be posted on the web

2) Previous Decisions

- Ruth presented a summary of the previous votes:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| April 29, 1999 | No votes taken |
| June 1, 1999 | No votes taken |
| August 18, 1999 | Votes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) bachelor's degree as minimum degree required 4 for, 5 against2) bachelor's degree with alternative (alternatives were not discussed) 5 for, 4 against3) requiring a literacy test 7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention (there were concerns about who will grade, subjectivity, preparation cost, institutional connection, etc.)4) retaining minimum standards ("sound moral character") 7 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions5) to hold vote and discussion on Provisional with Advanced Standing and Standard levels of certification until 9/15 |
| September 15, 1999 | Voted on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">6) Standard level of certification without time constraints (to be discussed and reviewed) 5 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions |
- The competencies were never voted on.
- Ruth reported that Commissioner Driscoll said that we will be creating our own certification, but only one document will be leaving DOE. She and Bob will meet with the Commissioner to get further clarification.
- BA, or equivalent will be put on a future agenda

3) Form of ABE Certification

Ruth raised the issue of the title of "adult basic education" v. "adult education"
-the law says "adult education"

Bob suggested that for now we'll understand that ABE means the full range, the breadth is implied
-pick up title again at the end of this discussion

Vote on form of certification:

Option 1—General ABE Certification=8 for

Option 3—General ABE Certification with the option for naming a specialization=2 for

Option 4—Separate certificates for teacher, counselor, and administrator= 1 for

The Advisory Committee will recommend a general ABE certification to the Commissioner which will include the certification of ABE teachers, counselors, and administrators.

4) Certification Levels and Time Limits

Vote:

How many levels of certification should there be?

One level: 8 for

More than one level: 3 for

Should there be time limits if there is more than one level?

No levels, so no time limits are needed

5) Literacy Test

Vote:

Support initial use of this literacy test, and support pursuing a more pertinent literacy test in the future? =6 for

Identify a working group to explore other options: =1 for

Abstaining: =2

Questions which arose during discussion:

- How do people whose native language isn't English do on this test?
- Al Ewing from testing came in to the meeting to inform us that there is nothing on the literacy test which asks whether English is the applicant's first language, therefore there is no data.
- It was suggested that we look at the literacy tests of other states and the national teacher's exam

6) Time Extension

Vote:

Given the amount of work still to be done on the certification, should we request a time extension beyond January? =8 for

Wrap up by the end of January? =1 for

Next Meeting: 1/6/00 at DOE from 1-4 p.m., in room 3B, lunch will be provided.

1/24/00 9-1 p.m., coffee, tea, bagels in the morning; light lunch will be provided.

Note: Susan Riley from SCALE in Somerville has agreed to representative the Adult Education Advisory Committee. Mary Jayne will invite her to the next Advisory Committee meeting and send her a packet of documents to get her caught up.