Oklahoma State University  
Professional Education Council  
By-Laws

I. RATIONALE

The Professional Education Council described herein extends both the membership and the functions of the former Teacher Education Council, established to coordinate teacher education programs at Oklahoma State University. The Professional Education Council is predicated in part on the definition of a “educator preparation program (EPP)” as defined by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). CAEP defines the EPP as:

The entity responsible for the preparation of educators including a nonprofit or for-profit institution of higher education, a school district, an organization, a corporation, or a governmental agency.

The organization of OSU’s Professional Education Council is designed to also reflect the governance guidelines of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (formerly the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation) pertaining to teacher education programs. The Commission specifies that:

The governance and administration of the total teacher education program standard is based on the premise that there must be a recognizable and functioning governance entity within the institution’s administrative structure which has responsibility for designing, approving, and continuously evaluating and developing teacher education programs. This governing unit may be a council, committee, department, school, college, or any other recognizable entity which includes the administration of teacher education as one of its functions.

At Oklahoma State University, the College of Education is formally recognized as the institution’s “professional education unit” for administrative purposes. Moreover, the Board of Regents recognizes the Dean of the College of Education as the University’s Director of Teacher (Professional) Education. The Professional Education Council is the organizing and coordinating body reflecting the more broadly defined unit structure - that which encompasses all professional education programs at the institution, including but not limited to those in teacher education.

II. FUNCTIONS

The Professional Education Council shall serve in the following general capacities for all programs which prepare professional school personnel at Oklahoma State University:

1. Reviewing and approving all policies governing the preparation of school professionals and recommending their implementation to the appropriate administrative units;
2. Promoting coordination among faculty in the various academic units which prepare school professionals through degree programs;

3. Providing a forum for discussion of plans and policies related to the preparation of school professionals among members of the extended community (including the public and business sectors) who are stakeholders in improving education;

4. Enabling a unified, broadly based, and representative body for communication with the University central administration, with local and state education agencies, with professional associations and with national accrediting agencies regarding the preparation of school professionals at Oklahoma State University.

In addition, the Professional Education Council shall be advisory to the Dean of the College of Education as the Director of Professional Education, and to other administrators as appropriate, in the following activities:

1. candidate admission, monitoring, retention, and evaluation;
2. course and program planning, development, evaluation, and improvement;
3. goal setting within the mission of Oklahoma State University; and
4. building and sustaining a culturally diverse student body and faculty.

III. STRUCTURE

The Professional Education Council is designed to be representative of the various interests within the professional education unit and of the extended professional community. The Professional Education Council is composed of the following membership:
# Professional Education Council Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Comments/Directives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean of the College of Education</td>
<td>➞ Designated as Director of Professional Education and Chair of the Professional Education Council</td>
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**Voting Members Appointed by Director (up to 18):**

- Four candidate representatives
- Two graduate candidate representatives
- Two undergraduate candidate representatives

**Appointed by Dean, College of Education**

- One from each College with a PEU program (Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Arts & Sciences, Education, Human Environmental Sciences)

- ➞ At least one public school representative must be from an urban school; one must be from a rural school; one must be an administrator; one of the teachers must be from a non-College of Education program.

**Voting Members Elected by Faculty (17, or one per group):**

- Agricultural Education
- Career and Technical Education
- Communication and Speech Disorders
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Music Education
- Physical Education/Health Education
- Reading Specialist
- School Administration
- School Counseling
- School Library Media
- School Psychology
- Secondary Education: Foreign Language/English/Social Studies
- Secondary Education: Science/Math
- Art Education
- Special Education

- ➞ Discretionary appointments are intended to ensure the greatest possible diversity in representation.
**Ex Officio (Non-voting) Members:**
- Associate Dean - Graduate Programs
- Associate Director of Professional Education
- Director of COE Student Academic Services
- Coordinator of Clinical Practices
- Admission, Retention and Testing Specialist
- Assessment Specialist
- Certification Specialist
- OSU Graduate College Representative
- Chair, University General Education Committee
- Office of Affirmative Action representative
- Public Information Office representative
- PEU School/Department Heads
- PEC Executive Member

The Director of Professional Education officially represents the Professional Education unit at Oklahoma State University and is responsible for the overall administration and coordination of programs and standards leading to professional education certification (see Attachment A). The Director convenes all meetings of the Professional Education Council and may choose to appoint an alternate to chair Council meetings. In addition to these duties, the Director (1) chairs the Executive committee of the Professional Education Council, (2) makes committee appointments to facilitate the mission of the council, (3) communicates with the council and the faculty as to requirements and policies of external educational agencies and (4) communicates the results of the Council’s actions to the appropriate officials at the University.

### IV. The Committees of the Professional Education Council

To facilitate the work associated with the Council’s responsibilities, two types of committees are authorized. These are Standing Committees and Ad hoc Committees. The Director of Professional Education shall approve or determine all committee appointments as detailed in the following.

The Standing Committees of the Professional Education Council consist of the following five committees: (1) Executive Committee; (2) Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee, (3) Student Affairs Committee and (4) Field Experiences Committee (5) Diversity Committee.

Ad Hoc committees may be established for specific purposes, but shall have limited tenure within the Professional Education Council.

**Executive Committee of the Professional Education Council**

The Executive Committee consists of the Director of Professional Education, the Associate Director of Professional Education and six additional members of the Professional Education Council. The members will include: a) the chair of each of the other three (3) standing committees, b) one (1) school administrator or teacher from the PEC, c) one (1) appointed representative from one of the Colleges of: Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources; Human Environmental Sciences, or Arts & Sciences. The members of the Executive Committee shall serve three year staggered and overlapping terms. The Ex Officio members are the Associate Director of Professional Education and the Coordinator of Clinical Experiences.
The Executive Committee of the Professional Education Council is responsible for:

1. planning agenda for the council meetings
2. serving as an advisory group to the Director of Professional Education and
3. performing other duties delegated to it by the Director and/or the council.

Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee

The Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee of the Professional Education Council shall include:
   a. three Professional Education Faculty who are voting members in the PEC,
   b. one school administrator or teacher from the PEC,
   c. one candidate from the PEC and
   d. two faculty/administrators who are either
      i. Professional Education faculty or
      ii. A faculty member or administrator who works with teacher candidates.

The seven members of the Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee shall serve three-year terms which are described as staggered and overlapping terms. The seven members of the Professional Education Council who serve on the Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee shall be appointed by the Director of Professional Education during the final spring meeting. Other members shall include appropriate Professional Education staff who serve as ex officio member(s).

The Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee of the Professional Education Council shall have primary responsibility for the Professional Education Unit ensure that the Unit establishes and maintains a professional education program consistent with the requirements of the University, the various accrediting agencies and the state environment. The purpose of the Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee shall be to:

1. approve procedures for the Program Certification areas, (see Article 8. Certification Program Changes and Additions)
2. review requirements for certificate programs;
3. review and approve course action forms for all courses related to professional education degrees/certifications and if approved by the committee, forward to the PEC with the recommendation to approve;
4. review and approve proposals for new programs or revision of existing programs and if approved by the committee, forward to the PEC with the recommendation to approve;
5. review legislation and national trends in relation to professional education at Oklahoma State University with the intent of communicating these issues to appropriate persons and groups and
6. coordinate a formal review of each certificate program as required by the accrediting agencies.
Student Affairs Committee

The Student Affairs Committee of the Professional Education Council shall have seven members consisting of:

a. three Professional Education Faculty who are voting members in the PEC;
b. one school administrator or teacher from the PEC;
c. one candidate from the PEC and
d. two faculty/administrators who are either
   i. Professional Education faculty or
   ii. A faculty member or administrator who works with teacher candidates.

The seven members of the Student Affairs Committee shall serve three-year terms which are described as staggered and overlapping terms. The seven members of the Professional Education Council who serve on the Student Affairs Committee shall be appointed by the Director of Professional Education during the final spring meeting. Other members shall include appropriate Professional Education staff who serve as ex officio member(s).

The Student Affairs Committee has primary responsibility for the establishment and implementation of policies which relate to ensuring diversity within the teacher candidates, candidate admission to professional education, recruitment and retention of professional education candidates, dispositions of professional education candidates, professional education candidate or candidate appeals, and other relevant topics. The purpose of the Student Affairs Committee shall be to:

1. monitor recruitment and retention of qualified and diverse candidates;
2. review and approve procedures to meet due process for admission to, retention in, and placement in programs in the Professional Education Unit;
3. hear candidate appeals related to Professional Education experiences and
4. develop and approve PEU Portfolio policies and procedures.

Field Experiences Committee

The Field Experiences Committee shall have seven members consisting of:

a) three Professional Education Faculty who are voting members in the PEC;
b) one school administrator or teacher from the PEC;
c) one candidate from the PEC, and
d) two faculty/administrators who are either
   i. Professional Education faculty or
   ii. a member of the Committee for International Student Teaching.

The members of the Field Experiences Committee shall serve three-year terms which are described as staggered and overlapping terms. The seven members of the Professional Education Council who serve on the Field Experiences Committee shall be appointed by the Director of Professional Education during the final spring meeting. Other members shall include appropriate Professional Education staff who serve as ex officio member(s).

The purpose of the Field Experiences Committee shall be to:
1. establish policy and approve procedures related to candidacy for appropriate field experiences in the programs within the Professional Education Unit;
2. review and approve implementation of the policies/procedures related to the candidacy for appropriate field experiences in the Professional Education Unit;
3. review appropriate agreements with the participating agencies for clinical and field-based experiences;
4. review and approve procedures used to evaluate processes related to:
   a) candidates;
   b) candidate experience(s);
   c) appropriateness of field sites and
   d) selection of cooperating teachers/supervisors for field experiences; and
5. review and approve out-of-area/out-of-state applications for student teaching placements.

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee of the Professional Education Council shall have seven members consisting of:

a) Two Professional Education Faculty who are voting members in the PEC
b) One school administrator or teacher from the PEC
c) One candidate from the PEC and
d) Two faculty/administrators who are either
   a. Professional Education faculty or
   b. A faculty member or administrator who works with teacher candidates
e) One Prospective Student Services Coordinator who works with teacher candidates

The seven members of the Diversity Committee shall serve three year terms which are described as staggered and overlapping terms. The PEC members of the Diversity Committee shall be appointed by the Director of Professional Education. Other members shall include appropriate Professional Education staff serving in an ex officio member capacity.

The Diversity Committee has primary responsibility to support candidate preparation to teach in classrooms of increasing diversity. The purpose of the Diversity Committee shall be:

1) To engage in dialogue regarding ways to increase faculty and candidate diversity through recruitment.
2) To examine current programs and promote program changes designed to ensure candidates can contextualize teaching drawing on cultural representations from students’ own cultures and engage all students through instruction, including English language learners and students with exceptionalities.
3) To ensure that the committee’s attention addresses the broadest possible range of diverse groups, including but not limited to gender, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, language, exceptionalities, and sex.
V. Articles of Operation

Article 1. Membership

1. A. Appointed and elected members, other than the Director of Professional Education, shall serve three year terms. Service in consecutive terms is not limited under the by-laws for any individual member.

1. B. Elected members shall be determined by simple majority vote of the tenure-track Professional Education faculty in each of the designated groups. Programs shall provide the PEU with the name of the elected representative prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

1. C. Individuals who may identify with more than one group must declare their affiliation with a single group. That declaration of affiliation must receive the support of the respective department head and Director of Professional Education to become effective. Such declaration of group affiliation should be included in the Appraisal and Development process for each faculty member and reflect that member’s task assignment and “line of professional inquiry.”

Article 2. Voting

2. A. Votes taken on any motion shall be by ballot with an appropriate documentation of the roster of all proxies and all eligible voters or their designees present at the meeting. The type of ballot used for any motion shall be at the discretion of the Chair unless otherwise directed by vote of the membership. Each appointed member and each elected member shall have the right to one vote per person.

2. B. In the event of anticipated absence from a scheduled meeting of the Professional Education Council, the member may send a designee or submit a written request for a proxy to the Director of Professional Education prior to the scheduled meeting. Such proxy or designee must be filled by another current member of the Professional Education Council or Professional Education unit faculty member or ex officio member.

2. C. The Director of Professional Education shall have the right to vote in the event of a deadlock among the voting members present.

Article 3. Quorum

3. A. A quorum of one-half of the voting membership, shall be required to conduct business of the Professional Education Council or its committees.

Article 4. Amendments

4. A. These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Professional Education Council. Amendments to the by-laws require written notification
to the membership of the proposed by-law change at least thirty days in advance of the vote on that proposed amendment.

**Article 5. Chairing and Convening of Meetings**

5. A. The Director of Professional Education shall chair and convene all meetings of the Professional Education Council. In the event of the absence of the Director, the Associate Director of Professional Education shall assume these responsibilities unless the Director designates an alternate.

5. B. The Professional Education Council shall meet at least once per fall and spring semester with additional meetings called as necessary.

**Article 6. Committee Membership**

6. A. In the event that personnel changes cause vacancies in committee membership, the Executive Committee of the Professional Education Council may appoint replacements to complete the respective term and to continue the functions of the respective committees.

6. B. In the event that the term of membership for an individual on the Professional Education Council ends before that respective member’s term on a committee is completed, the individual replacing the membership on the Professional Education Council shall complete the term on the committee.

6. C. Each standing committee of the Professional Education Council, other than the Executive Committee, shall elect a chair at the first meeting of that year. Committee chairs will assume responsibilities immediately following election and serve three year terms. Committee chairs may be elected to serve consecutive terms.

6. D. In the event of anticipated absence from a scheduled meeting of the Professional Education Council standing or ad hoc committee meeting, the member may send a designee or submit a written request for a proxy to the Director of Professional Education prior to the scheduled meeting. Such proxy or designee must be filled by another current member of the Professional Education Council or Professional Education Unit faculty member or ex officio member.

**Article 7. Membership Group Definition**

7. A. Membership within the individual constituency groups included on the Professional Education Council shall be logically determined, with resolution of disputed alignment as it affects membership to be resolved by the Director of Professional Education, and with any and all membership changes approved by the Director of Professional Education.

7. B. Membership relative to group alignment may be logically modified by the Professional Education Council, but the number of elected members must be at least equal to the number of appointed members.
Article 8. Certification Program Changes and Additions

8.A. An official Program Coordinator for each Professional Education Unit Certification Program (a.k.a. program) area shall be identified by the appropriate College dean, School Head, or Department Head each year.

8.B. Program changes or new OSU PEU programs must adhere to the following steps:
   a. Program changes or new OSU PEU programs shall originate with the Program Certification Coordinator who has been advised by the Program Advisory Committee and/or the Program Faculty and stakeholders who will make recommendations for changes/revisions of the professional education program or addition of a new OSU PEU program. Recommendations shall be forwarded to the department and/or college curriculum committee.
   b. The appropriate department and/or college curriculum committee shall review and if the committee approves, a recommendation shall be forwarded to the PEC Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee.
   c. The PEC Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Base and Certification Committee shall review, and if the committee approves, a recommendation shall be forwarded to the OSU PEU.
   d. The Director of OSU PEU shall review and if he/she approves, a recommendation shall be forwarded to the PEC.
   e. The PEC shall review, and if it approves, the Council will forward a recommendation to the University Instruction Council if appropriate. If the program change or new OSU PEU program does not require approval by the University Instruction Council, the OSU PEU program change will become official.
   f. If the OSU PEU Program change or new OSU PEU program requires action by the University Instruction Council, the council shall review and if the council approves, a recommendation will be forwarded to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE), if appropriate. If the program change or new OSU PEU program does not require approval by the OSRHE, the OSU PEU Program change will become official.
   g. The OSRHE shall review and approve if appropriate. If approved, the program change or new OSU PEU program addition will become official.
   h. In addition to adhering to the OSU PEU new program policy, the new program must adhere to the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA) New Certification Program Procedures for Established Units. After approval of both the OSU PEU policy for a new program and OEQA New Certification Program Procedures for Established Units, the OSU Director of Professional Education may recommend candidates for licensure/certification.

Article 9: Criteria for Admission to Professional Education Programs

In addition to completing the necessary forms, candidate must complete the following criteria for admission:
9A. Successful completion of the Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET). Those already holding a professional education certification are exempt from this requirement. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability does not require those seeking certification in Speech Language Pathology to take the OGET. Therefore, the OGET will not be a criterion for those wishing to enter Speech Language Pathology.

9B. Successfully meet Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Requirement by either (a), (b), or (c):
   a. Achieve a passing score on the level required by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability for state certification on the Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET), or
   b. Demonstrate evidence of basic skills in mathematics, reading, and writing by having a 3.0 GPA in all hours of liberal arts and sciences courses (a minimum of 20 hours) as defined in the OSRHE Policy Statement on Undergraduate Degree Requirements and Articulation, or
   c. Achieve a passing score on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST). (Graduate candidates are exempt from this requirement based on the completion of a previous bachelor’s degree.)

9C. Pass a Professional Education Foundations course with a minimum grade of "C".

9D. Pass a laboratory and clinical experience (observation) course with a minimum grade of "P" or "C".

9E. Earn and retain at least 2.50 (may vary by program) grade point average.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
AND OTHER COLLEGES WITH PROGRAMS IN THE
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT

The Colleges designated below have agreed to the Professional Education Council By-Laws. Each college further recognizes that the Dean of the College of Education is the designated head of the Educator Preparation Program as defined by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and Oklahoma State University.

As Deans of constituent colleges in the unit, we hereby recognize and adhere to the policies and by-laws of the Professional Education Council, in accordance with CAEP and Oklahoma State University policies, regarding faculty qualifications, load, development and evaluation. Each professional preparation program which is part of the University-recognized Professional Education Unit is similarly committed to the policies and by-laws of the Professional Education Council. Any substantive modifications to stated University policies in regard to faculty qualifications, load, development and evaluation are to be shared with the Dean of the College of Education when they pertain to faculty who teach in the Professional Education Unit.

As Deans of constituent colleges in the Unit, we further agree to coordinate our efforts in professional education programs with the College of Education as appropriate; to keep the Dean of the College of Education abreast of program planning and evaluation in professional education programs as appropriate; and to work with the Dean of the College of Education to ensure the overall quality of professional preparation programs offered by our respective colleges.

Pamela “Sissi” Carroll
Dean, College of Education
Director, Professional Education Unit

Tom Coon
Vice President, Dean, and
Director, Department of
Agricultural Sciences and
Natural Resources

Bret Danilowicz
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Stephan Wilson
Dean, College of Human Sciences

Date
Date
Date
Oklahoma State University Professional Education Unit

Definition of terms

Accrediting agencies: State and national agencies which accredit University professional education programs or the Unit. For the University Unit, these include Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Office of Educational Quality and Accountability, Oklahoma State Department of Education, and Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Candidates: University students, from all program areas, who are fully admitted to the OSU PEU.

CAEP: Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (formerly NCATE).

Curriculum: Courses, experiences, and assessments necessary to prepare candidates to teach or work with students at a specific age level and/or to teach a specific subject.

Director of Professional Education: The individual officially designated to provide leadership for the unit with the authority and responsibility for its overall administration and operation.

Diversity: Differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographical area.

OEQA: Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (formerly, OCTP: Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation).

ODCTE: Oklahoma Department of Career Technology Education.

OSDE: Oklahoma State Department of Education.

OSRHE: Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

OSU: (a.k.a. University) Oklahoma State University.

Other professional education school personnel (a.k.a. other school personnel): Educators who provide professional services other than teaching in schools. They include, but are not limited to, principals, reading specialist and supervisors, school library media specialist, school psychologist, school superintendents, and instructional technology specialist.

Portfolio: Documented profile of a candidate’s accomplishments, learning, and strengths related to the competencies, standards, and outcomes established by OCTP, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and the institution. For accreditation purposes, it presents evidence that the unit is offering initial, on-going, and focused opportunities for student achievement.

Professional Education Council (a.k.a. PEC): The governing body of the PEU.
**Professional Education program**: Within the University and PEU, a planned sequence of courses and experiences for preparing p-12 teachers and other professional education personnel. These courses and experiences sometimes lead to a recommendation for a state license to work in schools.

**Professional Education Unit (a.k.a. Unit or PEU)**: The professional education unit is composed of all University programs which prepare teachers or certified school personnel. Not all programs are located in the same University College; however, all programs are governed and coordinated by the same by-laws and governance council.

**Professional Education Unit Faculty**: Those individuals employed by a college or university, including graduate teaching assistants, who teach one or more courses in education, provide services to education candidates (e.g. advising) supervise clinical experiences, or administer some portion of the unit.

**Professional Education Unit program change**: Any change that involves a University Unit degree or curriculum including:

  a. Modification of a curriculum on a University Unit degree sheet or certification sheet,
  b. Changes within a University Unit degree sheet, or
  c. Changes in certification requirements and/or processes.

**Students**: PK -12 pupils.

**University (a.k.a. OSU)**: Oklahoma State University.