

**Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
Woolfolk State Office Building  
501 N. West Street, Room 145  
Jackson, MS  
10:00 a.m.  
January 29, 2016**

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(3) and § 25-41-5, the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Commission) met at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016, in Room 145 of the Woolfolk State Office Building, 501 N. West Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

**Members Attending:**

Kelly Fuller	Kenny Goza
Pamela Manners	Cindy Melton
Brian Pearse	Doris Perkins
Susan McClelland	Rilla Jones
Liz Michael	Shannon Doughty

**Members Absent:**

Robin Herrington	Cylesha Hopkins
Debra Mays-Jackson	Marilyn McMillan

**Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:**

Dr. Albert Carter	Dr. J. P. Beaudoin
Demetrice Watts	Michael Martin
Crystal Womack	Sandra Hilliard
Tiffany Jones	Tracey Miller
Latawnia Mainor	Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Cindy Melton, Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order.

**II. Establishment of a Quorum**

A roll call was taken as follows:

Shannon Doughty	Present via teleconference, Houston, TX
Kelly Fuller	Present, Jackson, MS
Kenny Goza	Present, Jackson, MS
Robin Herrington	Absent

Cylesha Hopkins	Absent
Rilla Jones	Present, Jackson, MS
Pamela Manners	Present, Jackson, MS
Debra Mays-Jackson	Absent
Marilyn McMillan	Absent
Cindy Melton	Present, Jackson, MS
Liz Michael	Present, Jackson, MS
Brian Pearse	Present, via teleconference (HWY) and in Jackson, MS
Doris Perkins	Present, Jackson MS
Susan McClelland	Present, via teleconference, Oxford, MS

Dr. Cindy Melton announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

### III. Approval of Minutes from the November 6, 2015, Commission Meetings

Dr. Cindy Melton asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the November 6, 2016 Commission meeting.. On a motion by Liz Michael and seconded by Doris Perkins, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the November 6, 2015 Commission meeting. The votes were as follows:

Members voting aye:

Shannon Doughty  
 Kelly Fuller  
 Kenny Goza  
 Rilla Jones  
 Pamela Manners  
 Cindy Melton  
 Liz Michael  
 Brian Pearse  
 Doris Perkins  
 Susan McClelland

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:

Robin Herrington  
 Cylesha Hopkins  
 Debra Mays-Jackson  
 Marilyn McMillan

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes from Certification Subcommittee Meeting(s)**

Dr. Cindy Melton stated there were no minutes to be approved from the Certification Subcommittee.

#### **V. Adoption of Agenda**

Dr. Cindy Melton discussed the items on the agenda and asked for the Commission members to review the agenda presented. On a motion by Rilla Jones and seconded by Pamela Manners, the Commission unanimously adopted the agenda. The votes were as follows:

Members voting aye:

Shannon Doughty  
Kelly Fuller  
Kenny Goza  
Rilla Jones  
Pamela Manners  
Cindy Melton  
Liz Michael  
Brian Pearse  
Doris Perkins  
Susan McClelland

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:

Robin Herrington  
Cylesha Hopkins  
Debra Mays-Jackson  
Marilyn McMillan

#### **VI. MDE Update**

Dr. J.P. Beaudoin discussed the organization and goals of the Division of Research and Development. Dr. Beaudoin noted that the division consisted of the Office of Student Assessment, Office of School and Educator Accountability, and the Office of the Teacher Center along with identifying the point of contact for each office. Dr. Beaudoin noted for the Commission members to contact him or Walt Drane directly for any questions or concerns.

**VII. Information/Action Items:**

**1. Discussion and/or approval for consideration to allow the Praxis PPST for certification/licensure for alternate route programs and traditional programs**

Dr. Albert Carter, Executive Secretary of the Commission, discussed this item. Dr. Carter explained that the Office of the Teacher Center had received calls on allowing students who have passed the Praxis Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) and are currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program to be allowed to receive certification due to the PPST test changing into the Praxis CORE and recent state law change. Dr. Carter asked the Commission members to consider whether to allow students who were caught in the transition of the praxis test to obtain their teacher certification or an emergency certification as long as they have met all requirements.

Dr. Donna Shea from Mississippi State University appeared before the Commission to discuss her concerns. Donna Shea mentioned that Mississippi State University has students who have not been able to obtain certification due to the change in requirements. She also mentioned statistics from other institutions as to the number of students who are having difficulty obtaining their certification.

Dr. Susan Lee also appeared before the Commission and referenced that she along with others have met with the IHL legislative liaisons to work on the wording of the technical amendment to Miss. Code Ann 37-3-2.

Susan McClelland motioned for the Commission to allow students to receive a teacher certification who were caught in the transition of the Praxis PPST to Praxis CORE. Dr. Cindy Melton clarified that the Commission would want to bring a proposed amendment to the MDE to accept the Praxis PPST scores of the student who were admitted in the teacher education preparation program under the original guideline for Praxis PPST to become certified teacher using the Praxis PPST passing scores. Liz Michael seconded the motion.

Pamela Manners asked whether an amendment could be made by the Commission. The Commission members all agreed to a recommendation on a proposed amendment to take place immediately upon passage by the legislature for students who are pursuing their certification using the Praxis PPST and met all requirements. Susan McClelland's motion adhering to this recommendation was renewed, and Liz Michael's seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously votes to recommend the proposed technical amendment to 37-3-2. The votes were as follows:

Members voting aye:

Shannon Doughty  
Kelly Fuller  
Kenny Goza  
Rilla Jones  
Pamela Manners

Cindy Melton  
Liz Michael  
Brian Pearse  
Doris Perkins  
Susan McClelland

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:

Robin Herrington  
Cylesha Hopkins  
Debra Mays-Jackson  
Marilyn McMillan

\*At 10:37 a.m. Brian Pearse no longer participated in the meeting via teleconference, but joined the Commission physically at the Woolfolk Building.

2. **Discussion and/or approval for the language “pre-major coursework” to be defined according to the changes to the state law 37-3-2, for alternate route admission requirements**

Dr. Carter announced that there is a concern to the definition of what “pre-major coursework” is according to the changes to the state law. The state law, effective September 30, 2015, states that teacher candidates pursuing an alternate route program in Mississippi shall have no less than a 2.75 GPA on pre-major coursework of the institution’s approved teacher education program provided that the accepted cohort of candidates meets or exceeds a 3.0 GPA on pre-major coursework. Dr. Carter is asking if all the institutions should be on the same accord or decide on which option to consider when reviewing “pre-major coursework”.

Dr. Susan Lee mentioned that the universities are debating whether to use the last 60 hours of the student’s undergraduate degree or the overall GPA to allow candidates into a program as long as they are consistent for all students.

Some institutions look at the overall GPA because of the difficulty it takes to review all the candidates and their major. However, other institutions stated that they use the last 60 hours of the core coursework because of the pre-major.

Dr. Melton commented that the universities have made their own decision until now due to the language of the state law. She proposed that a subcommittee can be formed and that MACTE can also poll in on the whether all institutions shall admit candidates on the same accord or be allowed to make a decision using the overall GPA or the last 60 hours of the student’s undergraduate degree as the “pre-major

coursework". In the meantime, Dr. Melton suggested to table this topic until the next Commission meeting.

Kenny Goza motioned to table this topic until the February Commission Meeting in agreement to Dr. Cindy Melton's proposal. Doris Perkins seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted as follows:

Members voting aye:

Kelly Fuller  
Kenny Goza  
Rilla Jones  
Pamela Manners  
Cindy Melton  
Liz Michael  
Brian Pearse  
Doris Perkins

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:

Robin Herrington  
Cylesha Hopkins  
Debra Mays-Jackson  
Marilyn McMillan  
Shannon Doughty\*\*  
Susan McClelland\*\*

\*\*Shannon Doughty and Susan McClelland disconnected from the teleconference during this item.

**3. Discussion and/or approval for American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) Alternate Route Program assessment requirement.**

Dr. Carter discussed the American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), a fourth alternate route program educators may pursue for their teacher certification. Dr. Carter asked the Commission if candidates enrolled in the ABCTE program will be required to meet the same requirements as the other alternate route program candidates due to the recent change in Miss. Code Ann 37-3-2, which all candidates must comply with to gain certification. If approved, teachers who are currently enrolled in the program will be required to take three assessment tests as part of the certification requirements in addition to meeting the ABCTE program requirements.

Pamela Manners motioned that candidates enrolled in the ABCTE program should adhere to the statutory requirements of Mississippi. Liz Michael seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously as follows:

Members voting aye:

Kelly Fuller  
Kenny Goza  
Rilla Jones  
Pamela Manners  
Cindy Melton  
Liz Michael  
Brian Pearse  
Doris Perkins

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:

Robin Herrington  
Cylesha Hopkins  
Debra Mays-Jackson  
Marilyn McMillan  
Shannon Doughty\*\*  
Susan McClelland\*\*

\*\*Shannon Doughty and Susan McClelland were still disconnected from the teleconference during this item

#### **4. Discussion of out-of-state licenses**

Dr. Carter presented the following item for discussion. Dr. Carter asked for the Commission members to review the reciprocity guidelines.

#### **5. Discussion of Misconduct hearings and backlog**

\*\*Shannon Doughty regained connection via teleconference at 11:30 a.m. Susan McClelland regained connection via teleconference at 11:41 a.m.

Michael Martin, Director of the Office of Educator Misconduct, presented the statistic within of Office of Educator Misconduct, indicating a total of 135 open cases for review. Mr. Martin mentioned that an internal process guide is currently being drafted.

Following the statement regarding the Office of Educator Misconduct's vision and goals, the Commission discussed the processes that are being developed and roles with misconduct.

The Commission members voiced their concerns in making sure that the infractions that have been reported are addressed accordingly without those who have been reported moving to another school district and the safety of students.

#### **6. Discussion of MDE contacts**

Dr. Beaudoin presented a PowerPoint of the organization of the Research and Development Division and identified the contact person for any concerns or questions. He also referenced the monthly newsletter, which was provided to the Commission members and IHL deans and is made available on Thursday at the beginning of each month.

#### **7. Discussion of 2016 Meeting dates**

Dr. Beaudoin presented to the members the concern of the Licensure Commission Meeting Dates for 2016. He asked the members to consider the dates for the 2016 year a, moving to even months rather than the previously approved schedule of meetings occurring on odd months. The Commission members were given an opportunity to set new meeting dates; however, the Commission members could not agree on a schedule. The Commission members did decide to meet on February 19, 2016 for their next regularly scheduled meeting, with the possibility of a teleconference.

Brian Pearse motioned for a Commission meeting to be scheduled for February 19, 2016. Doris Perkins seconded the motion. Kelly Fuller voted to abstain from voting. The Motion carried with the following votes:

Members voting aye:

Shannon Doughty  
Kelly Fuller  
Kenny Goza  
Rilla Jones  
Pamela Manners  
Cindy Melton  
Liz Michael  
Brian Pearse  
Doris Perkins

Members Abstaining: Kelly Fuller



Members voting nay: None

Members absent:

Robin Herrington  
Cylesha Hopkins  
Debra Mays-Jackson  
Marilyn McMillan  
Susan McClelland\*\*

\*\*Susan McClelland disconnected during the discussion of item # 7, item #8, and item # 9.

#### **8. Discussion of Commission Retreat**

Dr. Beaudoin stated that during the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission members will have an opportunity to discuss the possibility for a work day to take time to focus on aspects of the duties, requirements, statute, external consultants, and roles of the Licensure Commission.

#### **9. Discussion and/or approval for the Foundations of Reading Test**

Dr. Beaudoin shared with the Commission documentation and concern for the impact of the Foundation of Reading Test. The item presented is to determine a decision on whether alternate route teacher candidates pursuing an Elementary Education alternate teacher certification endorsement (117) will be required to pass the Foundations of Reading Test for their three-year alternate route or five-year alternate route certification.

The item will be discussed and considered in the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Commission members.

### **VIII. Information Items:**

1. Other Business: None.

### **IX. Adjourn**

On a motion made by Brian Pease and seconded by Doris Perkins, the Commission unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The votes were as follows:

Members voting aye:

Shannon Doughty

Kelly Fuller  
Kenny Goza  
Rilla Jones  
Pamela Manners  
Cindy Melton  
Liz Michael  
Brian Pearse  
Doris Perkins  
Susan McClelland

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:

Robin Herrington  
Cylesha Hopkins  
Debra Mays-Jackson  
Marilyn McMillan

Approved:



Cindy Melton, Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development



Albert Carter, Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development