

COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION
MINUTES
June 6, 2024
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Committee Members Present

Allan Hallis
Allison Leggett
Bob Frelly
Cathy Creasia
Gerard Morrison
Jason Lea
Katrine Czajkowski
Michael Hillis
Patrick McKee

April Ortiz, Anaheim Elementary School District
Andrea Mazo, Riverside COE
Melanie Oliver, Riverside COE
Ursula Estrada-Reveles, Riverside COE
Diana Campos-Ortiz, Riverside COE
Monica Fitzgerald, St. Mary's College
Catherine Davalos, St. Mary's College
Jill Rathjen, St. Mary's College
Nina Potter, San Diego State University
Liz Buffington, San Diego State University

Committee Members Not Present

Agustin Cervantes
J. Kevin Taylor
Marissa Luna Lopez

Maralina Milazzo, Monterey COE
Caryn Lewis, Monterey COE
Stephanie Herrera, UMass Global
Lori Piowiski, UMass Global
Kristy Pruitt, Alliant University

Staff Members Present

David DeGuire, Director
Erin Sullivan, Administrator
Cheryl Hickey, Administrator
Cara Mendoza, Administrator
Rosemary Wrenn, Consultant
Stephanie Morgado, Consultant
Gay Roby, Consultant
Jake Schuler, Consultant
Poonam Bedi, Consultant
Timothy Weekes, Consultant
Miranda Gutierrez, Consultant
Sarah Solari-Colombini, Consultant
Kristina Najarro, Consultant
Sarah Barwani, Consultant
Michelle Bernardo, Secretary

Carmy Preston, Alliant University
Brandon Jouganatous, Alliant University
Ruth Best, Alliant University
Tracy Heller, Alliant University
Andy Vaughn, Alliant University
Christine Zeppos, Team Lead
Adora Fisher, Santa Clara COE
Kalpana Thatte, Santa Clara COE
Brandy Zwemer Byers, Santa Clara COE
Virginia Pender, Santa Clara COE
Lena Kortoshian, Glendale USD
Sally Myles, Glendale USD
LaVonne Chastain, Team Lead
Teresa Morales-Young, Fresno USD
Deann Carr, Fresno USD
Bob Nelson, Fresno USD
Julie Sheldon, Team Lead

Present Via Technology

Tammie Ledesma, Anaheim Elementary School District
Susan Kelleher Holtz, Anaheim Elementary School District

Jessica Brown, Vallejo City USD
Amy Parangan, Vallejo City USD
Shelly Groomes, Team Lead
Susan Clapper, Dominican University of California

Jennifer Lucko, Dominican University of California
Katie Lewis, Dominican University of California
Luis Ibarra, Escondido USD
Laura Philyaw, Escondido USD
Heather Peterson, Escondido USD
Gail Houser, Team Lead

Molly Pope, San Francisco USD
Winnie Tsoi Hardie, San Mateo COE
Kris Shouse, San Mateo COE
Patricia Pernin, Team Lead
Mike Jackson, Mills College at Northeastern University
Tomás Galguera, Mills College at Northeastern University

Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Committee on Accreditation was called to order by Co-Chair Katrine Czajkowski at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

Item 2 – Approval of the Agenda

It was moved, seconded (Taylor/Creasia) and carried to approve the June 2024 agenda.

Item 3 – Approval of the Minutes of the Prior Meetings

It was moved, seconded (McKee/Hillis: Taylor abstained) and carried to approve the March 2024 minutes with no corrections.

It was moved, seconded (McKee/Hillis) and carried to approve the May 2024 minutes with no corrections.

Item 4 – Co-Chair and Member Reports

Co-Chair Czajkowski acknowledged the contributions of committee members Dr. Cathy Creasia and Gerard Morrison as their terms are expiring after the June 2024 meeting. Certificates of appreciation were presented to these committee members, as well as to Marissa Luna Lopez who has resigned from the COA, signed by Commission Chair Marquita Grenot Scheyer and Executive Director Mary Vixie Sandy. Staff and committee members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Creasia and Mr. Morrison for their many years of service.

Item 5 – Staff Reports

Administrator Cheryl Hickey noted that the meeting was being held in the new building for the first time and addressed the technology and cameras in the meeting room. Ms. Hickey thanked members Morrison and Creasia for the contributions to the COA and the support of staff. She discussed the need to watch the Governor’s budget closely, specifically a provision that would accept a bachelor's degree as demonstration of basic skills.

Administrator Erin Sullivan reported that site visits are complete for this year and there is one last report coming up in the August meeting.

Director David DeGuire provided an update on SB 1263 that addresses performance assessments.

Item 6 – Program Approval Recommendations

There were 2 institutions with 3 programs that were presented for approval.

Anaheim Elementary School District (AESD)

Clear Administrative Services Credential

Institutional representatives Tammie Ledesma, Senior Director of Human Resources; Susan Kelleher Holtz, Curriculum Specialist, Induction; and April Ortiz, Roving Vice Principal were present for questions about the proposed programs.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Lea/Hallis: no recusals) and carried to approve the Clear Administrative Services Credential for Anaheim Elementary School District.

Riverside County Office of Education

Preliminary PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential Intern Pathway

Institutional representatives Jeanette Andrea Mazo, Administrator of the PK-3 ECE program; Melanie Oliver, Director of the Center for Teacher Preparation Credential Programs; and Dr. Ursula Estrada-Reveles, Executive Director of the School of Education were present to answer questions about the proposed program.

Steve McDougall, California Federation of Teachers, provided comments in support of the PK-3 Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential Intern pathway.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Taylor/Lea: recusal by Hallis) and carried to approve the Preliminary PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential Intern Pathway for Riverside County Office of Education.

Riverside County Office of Education

Preliminary Multiple Subject credential program Intern Pathway

Institutional representatives Jeanette Dr. Diana Campos-Ortiz, Director of PK-3 ECE, Multiple Subjects, and Bilingual Added Authorization (BILA) programs; Melanie Oliver, Director of the Center for Teacher Preparation Credential Programs; and Dr. Ursula Estrada-Reveles, Executive Director of the School of Education were present to answer questions about the proposed program.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (McKee/Taylor: recusal by Hallis) and carried to approve the Preliminary Multiple Subject credential program Intern Pathway for Riverside County Office of Education.

Item 7 – Program Status Changes

Section A: Program Withdrawals

There were no requests for program withdrawals.

Section B: Programs Requesting Reactivation

There were no programs requesting reactivation.

Section C: Adding a New Content Area

There were two institutions requesting to add a new content area to their existing programs.

Saint Mary’s College - Single Subject, Dance

Institutional representatives Catherine Davalos, Professor of Dance; Jill Rathjen, Program Coordinator Teacher Education; and Monica Fitzgerald, Associate Dean School of Education were present to answer questions about the program.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Hallis/Morrison: no recusals) and carried to approve the addition of Dance to the Preliminary Single Subject content areas offered by Saint Mary’s College.

San Diego State University - Single Subject, Dance

Institutional representatives Dr. Nina Potter, Director of Accreditation, Program Review, and Assessment and Liz Buffington, Cultural Proficiency Minor Coordinator and Advisor, 21st Century Blended Learning Coordinator and Lecturer were present to answer questions about the program.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Taylor/Creasia: no recusals) and carried to approve the addition of Dance to the Preliminary Single Subject content areas offered by San Diego State University.

D. Notification about the Transition of Professional Preparation Program(s)

There were no requests for program transition.

E: Programs Moving to Inactive Status

This was an information item. There was one institution moving three programs requesting to move to inactive status.

San Francisco Unified School District

Specialist Teaching: Bilingual Authorization – Spanish, effective September 1, 2024

Preliminary Multiple Subject Intern, effective September 1, 2024

Preliminary Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs Intern, effective September 1, 2024

Item 8 – Discussion of Institutions Not in Compliance with Accreditation Timelines

There were no institutions to report at this time.

Item 9 – Discussion of the 3rd Quarterly Report from the Monterey County Office of Education
Consultants Dr. Sarah Solari Colombini and Steph Morgado presented this item. They were joined by institutional representatives Maralina Milazzo, Director of Leadership and School Systems and Dr. Caryn Lewis, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.

Steve McDougall, California Federation of Teachers, commented raising concerns of Monterey County Office of Educations programs and sharing the comments of one candidate.

Linda Coyne, Coach for Teacher Induction and Administrative Induction program for Monterey COE, provided positive comments in support of Monterey COE's programs.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Morrison/Lea: Czajkowski opposed: no recusals) and carried to accept the 3rd Quarterly Report from the Monterey County Office of Education.

Item 10 – Discussion of 7th Year Report from University of Massachusetts Global
Consultants Dr. Sarah Solari-Colombini and Dr. Rosemary Wrenn introduced this item. They were joined by institutional representatives Dr. Stephanie Herrera, Associate Dean of Assessment and Accreditation and Dr. Lori Piowiski, Dean School of Education.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Morrison/McKee: recusal by Creasia) and carried to accept the 7th Year Report from University of Massachusetts Global.

Item 11 – Report of the Accreditation Team to Alliant International University
Consultant Sarah Solari-Colombini introduced this item. She was joined by team lead Dr. Christine Zeppos and institutional representatives Dr. Kristy Pruitt, Dean, School of Education and Carmy Preston, Credential Department Director and Accreditation Specialist.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Frelly/Lea: no recusals) and carried to grant the status of *Accreditation with Major Stipulations* to Alliant International University and its credential programs. The following stipulations were placed on the institution:

Within one year of the site visit, the institution must submit a report providing evidence documenting the following that:

1. candidates and constituents are able to articulate the systems of support that are available to candidates addressing:
 - a. support, advice, and assistance to promote candidates' successful retention in the program provided by the unit is effective. (CS2, MS/SS, MMSN, PASC)
 - b. candidates' access to appropriate personnel to assist them in identifying and meeting program requirements. (CS2, MS/SS, MMSN, PASC)
 - c. the unit's clearly defined process in place to support candidates who are struggling and need additional assistance to meet competencies is effective and effectively communicated to candidates. (CS2, MS/SS, MMSN, PASC, PPS)

2. site-based supervisors are selected, receive training in supervision, are oriented to the supervisory role, are evaluated by the program, and engage in two-way communication with the program that is effective and systematic. (CS3, MS/SS, MMSN, PPS, PASC)
3. the programs effectively and consistently use assessment measures to evaluate fieldwork and clinical practice to provide candidates formative feedback on competencies. (CS3, MS/SS, PASC)
4. candidates can articulate the effective support provided for the performance assessments required for their credential (MS/SS, MMSN, PASC)
5. the candidates in the MMSN program receive content and opportunities to practice competencies related to Individual Education Plan (IEP) development and have fieldwork that provides opportunities to observe a variety of classrooms and settings and to select focus students for deeper observational study.
6. the candidates in the PPS School Counseling program articulate and provide an example of an individualized self-care plan to ensure long-term wellness and professionalism to successfully cope with high stress situations and that they participate in one and one half (1.5) hours per week of group supervision on a regular schedule throughout the field experience.
7. the candidates in the PPS School Psychology program receive content and theory prior to conducting practice of competencies in their fieldwork.
8. the CTCL program collaborates with local school districts and other teacher development programs to reflect the needs of teachers of English Learners.
9. within six months Alliant International University provide a mid-year report informing the COA of actions taken toward meeting the stipulations to ensure that candidates' needs are addressed in accordance with the stipulations above.
10. within one year Alliant International University host a revisit so that a team may interview candidates, completers, cooperating teachers (district-employed supervisors), community partners (advisory board members), and faculty to confirm all stipulations have been addressed.

Item 12 – Discussion of the 1st Quarterly Report for Santa Clara County Office of Education

Consultants Miranda Gutierrez and Dr. Rosemary Wrenn presented this item. They were joined by institutional representatives Adora Fisher, Executive Director, Educator Preparation Programs; Kalpana Thatte, Director, Educator Preparation Programs; Dr. Brandy Zwemer Byers, Coordinator, Educator Preparation Programs; and Virginia Pender, Coordinator, Educator Preparation Programs.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Hallis/Taylor: no recusals) and carried to accept the 1st Quarterly Report for Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Item 13 – Report of the Accreditation Team to Glendale Unified School District

Consultant Sarah Barwani presented this item. She was joined by team lead LaVonne Chastain and institutional representatives Lena Kortoshian, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning and Sally Myles, Teacher Induction Specialist.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Hallis/Hillis: no recusals) and carried to grant the status of *Accreditation with a 7th Year Report* to Glendale Unified School District and its credential program. The seventh-year report is to address the issues identified in Common Standard 1.

Item 14 – Report of the Accreditation Team to Fresno Unified School District

Consultant Dr. Rosemary Wrenn presented this item. She was joined by team lead Julie Sheldon and institutional representatives Teresa Morales-Young, Administrator of Teacher Development and Deann Carr, Manager of New Teacher Support and Induction

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Taylor/Creasia: no recusals) and carried to grant the status of *Accreditation* to Fresno Unified School District and its credential program.

Item 15 – Report of the Accreditation Team to Vallejo City Unified School District

Consultant Dr. Timothy Weekes presented this item. He was joined by team lead Shelly Groomes and institutional representatives Jessica Brown, Induction Program Coordinator and Amy Parangan, Director of Professional Learning.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Creasia/Lea: no recusals) and carried grant the status of *Accreditation* to Vallejo City Unified School District and its credential program.

Item 16 – Report of Actions Taken to Address Precondition Stipulation by Dominican University of California

Consultant Poonam Bedi introduced this item. She was joined by institutional representatives Dr. Susan Clapper, Accreditation Liaison Officer and Director of Assessment; Dr. Jennifer Lucko, Department Co-chair, Division of Education; and Dr. Katie Lewis, Department Co-chair, Division of Education.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Hallis/Taylor: no recusals) and carried to grant the removal of the precondition stipulation for Dominican University of California.

Item 17 – Report of the Accreditation Team to Escondido Union School District

Consultant Gay Roby introduced this item. She was joined by team lead Gail Houser and institutional representatives Dr. Luis Ibarra, Superintendent; Dr. Laua Philyaw, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services; and Heather Peterson, Coordinator of New Education Teachers Support.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Creasia/McKee: no recusals) and carried to grant the status of *Accreditation* to Escondido Union School District and its credential program.

Item 18 – Actions Taken to Address Stipulations for San Francisco Unified School District

Administrator Cheryl Hickey introduced this item. She was joined by institutional representative Molly Pope, Supervisor, Pathway to Teaching.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Czajkowski/Hillis: recusal by Hallis) and carried to grant the change of accreditation status from *Accreditation with Major Stipulations* to *Accreditation* for San Francisco Unified School District and its credential programs.

Item 19 – Adoption of Revised Chapter 3 of the Accreditation Handbook

This item was moved to the August 2024 COA meeting.

Item 20 – Report of the Accreditation Team to San Mateo County Office of Education

Consultant Kristina Najarro introduced this item. She was joined by team lead Dr. Patricia Pernin and institutional representatives Winnie Tsoi Hardie, Executive Director of Teacher and Administrator Development and Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded (Creasia/Lea: no recusals) and carried to grant the status of *Accreditation* to San Mateo County Office of Education and its credential programs.

Item 21 – Potential Reconsideration of Initial Program Approval for Mills College at Northeastern University’s Preliminary Multiple Subject Program After Remand by the Commission

Director David DeGuire presented this item. He explained that the Commission had received a complaint challenging the approval of the Mills College at Northeastern University’s Preliminary Multiple Subject program and explained that this complaint had been first referred to the Commission. The Commission then remanded the issue back to the COA to determine its merits. He noted that the staff’s recommendation is for the COA to take two actions. The first is a vote to reconsider the approval, and, if the COA votes to reconsider, it would take second a vote to either sustain the prior decision to grant initial program approval or reverse the program approval and deny initial program approval. He explained the implications of each of the potential actions by the COA.

Public Comments:

Steve McDougall, California Federation of Teachers, commented on the various literacy discussions taking place in the state currently as well as the need to improve literacy instruction in this state.

Kareem Weaver, Fulcrum, noted that they provided comments raising concerns about Mills College at Northeastern University successfully managing their credential programs and the impact on the Oakland community.

Ms. Hickey noted that written comments were also submitted by Decoding Dyslexia of California and the California Council on Teacher Education.

Karen Escalante, Assistant Professor, CSU San Bernardino, speaking as the President on California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE), discussed the various standards and processes that guide the work of the Commission to ensure program quality and asked the COA to firmly

uphold the decisions made by the reviewers of Mills College at Northeastern University initial program review.

Juliet Wahleithner, Associate Professor of Literacy Education and Director of Educator Preparation Programs and Accreditation at Fresno State University; Director of the San Joaquin Writing Project; Associate Executive Director of the California Writing Project and board member of the California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE). Dr. Wahleithner agreed with Dr. Escalante's comments and also highlighted the commitment California teacher education programs have with the Commission and COA to preparing highly qualified teachers to serve California PK-12 learners. She voiced support for the current accreditation standards and accreditation process and noted their rigor. She urged the COA to uphold the previous decision for approval.

Anita Flemington, Professor in Education, University of La Verne, spoke on behalf of English learners in California and educators of those students. She commented on the thorough and comprehensive CTC review process and examines all aspects of the program for alignment of the programs. Dr. Flemington voiced support for the COA's decision approval of Mills College at Northeastern University.

Dr. Tomás Galguera, Professor of Education and Unit Chair of Humanities and Education Mills College at Northeastern University. Dr. Galguera provided comments addressing the complaint filed against the approval of the Multiple Subject program for Mills College at Northeastern University.

After discussion, member Taylor motioned that they not reconsider the initial program approval for the Preliminary Multiple Subject credential program proposed by Mills College. Member Lea seconded the motion. Co-Chair Frelly clarified that by moving forward with the motion there would be no discussion at all. Co-Chairs Frelly and Czajkowski proposed that the committee reconsider to open the discussion. Member Lea withdrew his second to the motion and no other members came forward to second; therefore, the motion died.

It was moved, seconded (Creasia/Hallis) and carried 5-3 (opposed by Morrison, Lea, Taylor) to reconsider the initial program approval for the Preliminary Multiple Subject credential program proposed by Mills College of Northeastern.

After discussion of whether to sustain or reverse the prior decision, it was moved, seconded (Taylor/Lea) to sustain the prior decision made by the COA to grant the initial program approval for the Preliminary Multiple Program at Mills College at Northeastern University.

As a result of this decision, the following apply:

- a. The Mills College at Northeastern Preliminary Multiple Subject program continues operations and may continue to enroll candidates and implement the program.
- b. The approval date for the program will remain unchanged as January 2024.

- c. The program will be subject to the literacy certification process as will all other Preliminary Multiple Subject credential programs, with the modified timeline for submission of documentation for newly approved programs. Certification will be determined by the July 1, 2025, timeline established in statute.
- d. As an institution in its provisional period of initial institutional approval, a full site visit of all standards will be conducted in 2026.

Item 22 – Nomination and Election of Co-Chairs

Administrator Cheryl Hickey presented this item.

Nominations for the Co-Chairs were opened. Patrick McKee was nominated for the PK-12 COA Co-Chair position and Robert Frelly was nominated for the postsecondary COA Co-Chair position. Nominations will remain open and the election of Co-Chairs will be held at the August 2024 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Bob Frelly adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm. He announced that the next meeting of the COA is scheduled for August 8, 2024.