



BOARD OF REGENTS OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

Kennesaw State University ("KSU") and Atlanta Metropolitan State College ("AMSC")

SUBJECT:

1. Rationale/ Purpose:

Georgia has a critical need to increase the number of teachers from underrepresented groups. Data for 2010-11 by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement show that 73% of PK-12 teachers in Georgia are Caucasian, 23% are African-American, 2% are Hispanic, 0.9% are Asian, 0.2% are Native American, and 1% are Multiracial. In addition, Teacher Preparation Report data from the Georgia Board of Regents show a decline in teachers from underrepresented groups from 25% in 2009 to 21% in 2010.

As a leading producer of new teachers, Bagwell's data on teacher education majors also indicate the critical need to recruit teacher candidates from underrepresented groups. While underrepresented groups account for 26 percent of the total KSU student population, the percentage of teacher candidates from underrepresented groups is lower than the state average. Demographic data for Bagwell teaching majors are: White 82%, Black 9%, Hispanic 4%, Multiracial 2%, Asian 1%, American Indian or Alaskan Native 0.2%, and Undeclared 2%.

Demographic data for AMSC show that underrepresented groups represent 91.7 % of the total AMSC student population. Furthermore, demographic data for the 171 students whose curriculum area of emphasis is teacher education are: White 1%, Black 81%, Undeclared 18%.

Given AMSC's demographics, a partnership between Kennesaw State University and Atlanta Metropolitan State College will increase KSU's number of teacher candidates from underrepresented groups, providing role models for Georgia's diverse P-12 students and increasing the number of first generation college graduates. Such a partnership will also afford AMSC students an opportunity to pursue a career that will enable them to serve their local community.

Teacher retention rates is an area for improvement in Georgia school districts, especially in high-need districts. In order for the USG to maintain highly qualified teachers for the workforce, we must provide our candidates with the knowledge and skills that will enable and encourage them to stay in the profession. KSU has an emphasis on producing teachers with the knowledge and skills to teach in urban settings. KSU currently offers an Urban Education Option, an undergraduate track in elementary, middle, and secondary education, funded through the largest grant awarded to KSU—an \$8.9 million Teacher Quality Partnership—thus, KSU is positioned well to partner with AMSC, an urban institution.

Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) identified early childhood/elementary teacher preparation as one of the most needed and requested programs in teacher education. A recent survey of AMSC students pursuing an associate degree in early childhood education who will be ready to begin upper-level course work in Fall 2013 found that 100% of students responding were interested in earning their B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education from KSU on AMSC's campus. Based on this regional need and student interest, we hope to begin offering the B.S. in Early Childhood Education degree on AMSC's campus during the Fall 2013 semester.

2. Strategic Vision and Goals:

The proposed partnership with Atlanta Metropolitan State College will help meet Kennesaw State University's Strategic Plan (2012-2017), Goals 1, 2, 3, & 4:

Goal 1: Promote excellence and innovation in education through teaching, supervising, and mentoring students; research, creative activity, and scholarship; and professional service. Specifically, Objective 1 Action Step: Begin operation of new off-campus educational sites selected with input from off-campus advisory groups.

Goal 2: Improve recruitment, retention, progression, and graduation rates (RRPG) in accord with the Complete College Georgia initiative, while continually increasing the quality, breadth, and relevance of academic and co-curricular programs.

Goal 3: Become more engaged and prominent in the local community, Georgia, the nation, and the world. Specifically, Objective 1: Develop and implement a community engagement framework that creates synergies among engagement initiatives and Objective 3: Identify and nurture existing programs and areas of excellence that have achieved or have potential to achieve national or international prominence.

Goal 4: Enhance the collegiate experience, and foster a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive environment. Specifically, Objective 3: Promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, and sensitivity.

The proposed partnership with Atlanta Metropolitan State College will help meet the Bagwell College of Education's Strategic Plan (2012-2017), Goals 1, 2, 3, & 4:

Goal 1: Promote excellence and innovation in education through teaching, supervising, and mentoring candidates; research, creative activity, and scholarship; and professional service. Specifically, Objective 5: Develop new programs and initiatives to meet the needs of our service region and the state such as school counseling, school psychology, higher education administration and others.

Goal 2: Improve recruitment, retention, progression, and graduation rates (RRPG) in accord with the Complete College Georgia initiative, while increasing the quality, breadth, and relevance of academic and co-curricular programs. Specifically, Objective 4: Expand

opportunities to improve RRPg rates. Action Step: Explore ways to enhance our current recruitment efforts/plan.

Goal 3: Become more engaged and prominent in the local community, Georgia, the nation, and the world. Specifically, Objective 1: Develop and implement a reciprocal community engagement framework that creates synergies among engagement initiatives. Action Step: Strategically increase and deepen partnerships with traditional school districts, charter schools and districts, independent schools and other educational institutions designed to increase program relevance, strengthen programs, and increase student and institutional opportunities. Objective 3: Identify and nurture existing programs and areas of excellence that have achieved or have potential to achieve national or international prominence. Action Step: Seek to build capacity through partnerships with currently recognized externally prominent programs or other educational programs calculated to lead to increased institutional prominence.

Goal 4: Enhance the collegiate experience, and foster a welcoming, diverse and inclusive environment. Specifically, Objective 3: Promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, and sensitivity. Action Step: Improve recruitment, retention, progression, and graduation rates of candidates who identify from underrepresented groups.

3. Scope:

This partnership will offer students an opportunity to complete a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education (P-5). Upon completion of the Associate of Science in Teacher Education (Early Childhood Education) degree at Atlanta Metropolitan State College's main campus, interested students will apply for admission to KSU and the Bagwell College of Education's (BCOE) teacher education program. Students who meet KSU and BCOE admission criteria will be admitted to the program and will be able to take all course work in KSU's Early Childhood Education program on the AMSC campus.

4. Responsibilities:

KSU and AMSC will collaborate on assigning classroom, faculty office space, and technology needs at AMSC's main campus through face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations, and via e-mail. KSU will appoint a KSU liaison who will work with an AMSC liaison in determining space allocations and the scheduling of courses and technology needs on the AMSC main campus.

The BCOE and AMSC will jointly market the program, to provide information about the partnership for interested students concerning advising, admission requirements, etc. Marketing is defined as the distribution of information by both schools via websites, print materials, and through email communications via AMSC's education professors.

The Bagwell College of Education's undergraduate advisement center (a subunit of Education Student Services—ESS) will provide advisement for AMSC students who are planning to earn a degree in education at KSU. Once students are admitted to the Teacher Education Program in EECE, the BCOE's undergraduate advisement center will provide advisement for those students.

BCOE faculty teaching at AMSC will have offices there and will hold regular office hours to meet students' needs. Students will also be able to communicate with their KSU professors through e-mail, telephone, and D2L. Registration, financial aid, and other student services are currently provided online, and AMSC students will make use of them.

KSU students at AMSC can make use of AMSC's library, as well as all of KSU's electronic library holdings. AMSC has ample computer lab space for students to access all of KSU's websites for library resources, admissions, financial aid, etc.

5. Collaboration:

This partnership will allow qualified students to move seamlessly from the AMSC Associate of Science in Teacher Education (Early Childhood Education) into KSU's B.S. degree program in Early Childhood Education. Because students are AMSC students until they complete the associate degree and then are KSU students once they are admitted into the KSU Program, there are no problems with financial aid, tuition, advisement, etc. To ease transition between the two programs, the institutions will collaborate to provide advisement information to the students. While AMSC students may transfer to KSU before completing their associate degree, they will be encouraged by both AMSC and KSU to finish their associate degree at AMSC before applying to KSU because an early transfer may result in students having to complete additional courses.

6. Communication:

KSU and AMSC have already begun to collaborate on communication with AMSC students about the proposed program. We will continue to collaborate on our communication with students. Much of the distribution of information will be done by posting information on both schools' websites and through email communications via AMSC's education professors. The Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education (EECE) at KSU will appoint a faculty member to be the liaison for the Atlanta Metro State College partnership. The Dean of the Division of Social Sciences will appoint a faculty member to be the liaison at AMSC.

7. Understandings, agreements, support, and resource needs:

KSU and AMSC have agreed on the structure of the program. Resources are in place at the AMSC campus for students to access the KSU Library's electronic holdings. The proposed B.S. degree program is a replication of the degree program currently housed on KSU's main campus. Students at AMSC will make use of the same resources as students on the main KSU campus. While students are completing their associate degree at AMSC, they will be under the policies and guidance of AMSC; once they transfer to KSU, they will then be under the policies and guidance of KSU.

8. Resolution of Disputes (How AMSC and KSU will resolve issues of advising financial aid, space, etc.)

While students are in the AMSC program, AMSC will be responsible for their advising, financial aid, instruction, and all issues directly related to students, etc. Once students have been admitted into KSU's teacher preparation program, KSU will be responsible for their advising, financial aid, instruction, and all issues directly related to students, etc. The AMSC and KSU liaisons will deal with issues concerning space and resources as they occur and will work together to provide advisement for students in transition. Any disputes will be resolved through communication

between both institutions by a faculty liaison from each institution. Should faculty liaisons be unable to resolve an issue, then the issue will be referred to the Chair of the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood at KSU and the Chair of the Department of Teacher Education at AMSC. If the dispute is still not resolved, then it will be referred to the Dean of the College of Education at KSU and the Dean of the Division of Social Sciences at AMSC.

9. Contracting Period:

The proposed program will continue as needed contingent upon available resources and the presence of enough students to support the program.

10. Monetary and Performance Terms:

Both AMSC and KSU will fund and support their own faculty and staff teaching and/or advising students at the AMSC Campus. The proposed program is a part of KSU's existing program in early childhood and elementary education and will conform to the existing standards.

11. Local Plans and Arrangements:

KSU will provide KSU faculty teaching at the AMSC campus with comparable teaching materials that are available to faculty teaching on the main KSU campus. AMSC will provide instructional needs such as dry erase markers, copying, teaching software in the labs, etc. A KSU liaison and AMSC liaison will coordinate efforts on technology and other equipment needs. Both parties will abide by all software licensing agreements.

12. Assurances and Compliance:

The proposed plan will be a continuation of existing programs at both schools. These programs are already in compliance with NCATE, PSC, SACs, etc. The proposed program will be a part of the existing programs and will be compliant with all accreditation bodies.

13. Monitoring Component:

The chair of the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood at KSU and Chair of the Department of Teacher Education at AMSC will monitor the proposed program and will conduct regularly scheduled face-to-face and phone meetings to insure that the program is working efficiently. They will also communicate via email when needed. Both parties will be responsible for monitoring the program enrollment.

14. Modification of Agreement:

Either KSU or AMSC may revise this agreement as long as notice to do so is given in writing at least one full semester in advance. Agreed upon revisions cannot be instituted until students have been given one full semester's notice. KSU will notify KSU students taking part in the program of any revisions to the program, while AMSC will be responsible for notifying their students in the program.

15. Termination Clause:

Either KSU or AMSC can terminate this agreement for any reason as long as notice to do so is given in writing at least one full semester in advance. Termination cannot be instituted until students have

been given one full semester's notice. KSU will notify KSU students taking part in the program while AMSC will be responsible for notifying their students in the program.

16. Duration of MOU:

The proposed program will be reviewed annually, and will continue as needed contingent upon available resources and there being enough students to support the program.

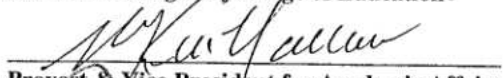
17. Effective Date:

This signed MOU signals approval of the KSU external B. S. degree program in Early Childhood Education to be offered on the AMSC campus. The program is expected to begin Fall 2013.


Kennesaw State University


Dean of the Bagwell College of Education

6.16.13
Date


Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

5/16/13
Date


President

5-16-13
Date

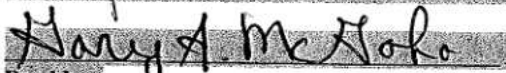
Atlanta Metropolitan State College


Dean of the Division of Social Sciences

3-26-2013
Date


Vice President for Academic Affairs

3/26/13
Date


President

3-26-13
Date