

Elementary Education and Special Education Advisory Board Minutes  
Tuesday, March 3, 2009  
4:00-5:00 PM

In attendance—Linda Armstrong, , Russ White, Julie Box, Pam Fernstrom, Megan Smith, Allison Weaver, Lisa Clayton, Denise Beaver, Connie Jones, Madonna Choate, Mary Maschal, Lisa Highfield, Debbie Christopher, Kim Gray, Lynn Sharp, Katie Kinney, Vicky Hulsey, Janice Myhan

4:00 Dr. Armstrong opened the meeting, welcomed all committee members, and indicated the purpose of the meeting (agenda items).

### **Elementary Education Graduate Program Needs and Review Discussion**

At the October 2008 meeting, the advisory board agreed to investigate elementary education graduate programs at 4 peer institutions in particular (Jacksonville State, University of West Georgia, Delta State University, and Northwestern Louisiana State University).

Board members expressed a general sense of graduate opportunities available, including the following two highlights:

- There is a large on-line presence for many universities in the state and region, and board members recommended the department develop more online courses at the graduate level. They were interested in the department offering the entire degree program online. (*"Everybody I know is online."*)
- There are wide varieties of specialized degrees available online that might interest teachers (For example, Early Childhood).

### **Marketing Suggestions**

- Promote UNA as a university with high academic standards
- Communicate directly with area schools about program opportunities
- Promote user-friendly offices across campus (offices open after 4:30, one-stop shopping)
- Hold a graduate fair
- Get free advertizing by promoting ourselves in the local newspaper

### **Program Suggestions**

- Offer more options each term (new classes, special topics, AMSTI)
- Embrace technology: video conferencing, hybrid courses, online courses
- All classes should focus on elementary education (*"I didn't get much out of the classes I took with elementary and secondary students."*)
- There should be more emphasis on exceptional children/inclusion
- Include a course on legalities of teaching/legal ethics
- Include a course on conflict resolution
- Look at the program in terms of the 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher and make adjustments
- Include more field based assignments in courses

**Possible Program to Develop**

Leadership in Elementary Education/EDS in Elementary Education