



Teacher TRAC Advisory Committee Meeting

Austin Community College, Eastview Campus Room 3209

March 28, 2008, 1:30-3:00

Attendees: Karlene Bennett, Michelle Crawford, Larry Elsner, Cindy Gamez, Sally Gomez, Ron Hubbard, Kim Kofron, Michelle Moran, Gloria Neunaber

ACC Faculty/Staff: Gale Spear, Linda Welsh, Amanda Hernandez, Sue Gartner, Charlene Nickels

I. Welcome and Introduction—Linda Welsh asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Student Testimonials—Rita Escobar, Sarah Cadwell, and Ruby Flournoy shared stories of how Teacher TRAC helped them financially and academically.

III. Program Overview

A. Linda led discussion of current funding and future needs if ACC was to offer additional sections at other locations.

B. Linda discussed handout on 2007 enrollment and bonus information and spring 2008 number of students. She discussed the 2007 CDA Applicant Data.

C. Programmatic Changes—Current enrollment priorities were discussed. Linda proposed (for the fall 2008 semester) changing eligibility for first priority students to be child care professionals working full-time (30 hours per week or more) who live and/or work full time in the City of Austin or Travis County with a family income below 200 percent of the FPL.

* Students who meet eligibility for first priority will be enrolled based on the following list of priorities: 1) continuing Teacher TRAC participants have priority over new students, 2) Teachers who work in a child care center enrolled in the Texas or Austin Rising Star System or Accreditation Project and who are working with a mentor, 3) Teachers who work in a child care center enrolled in other Travis County or City of Austin funded projects; 4) Teachers who work in a child care center in Austin or Travis County.

* Enrollment of students who do not meet eligibility for first priority will occur for the same groups listed in the first enrollment option based on the following order: 1) Child care professionals who live and/or work in the City of Austin or Travis County and have income above 200 percent of poverty up to the Travis County median income; 2) Teachers who are working part-time (less than 30 hours per week) and meet the other eligibility criteria. Current Teacher TRAC students will be grandfathered under prior rules. **This proposed policy change effective fall 2008 was approved by the committee.**

IV. Action Items

A. Linda led discussion of new policies

1. Proposed Withdrawal Policy—if a student withdraws from a class after deadline for full reimbursement, Teacher TRAC will not pay for a second attempt at this class and it will not qualify for reimbursement. For the next class taken after withdrawal, the student must first pay for the course and complete with a “C” or better to qualify for a reimbursement from Teacher TRAC. Students may go through an appeal process if there are extenuating circumstances. **This proposed policy change for new and continuing students, effective fall 2008, was approved by the committee.**

2. Proposed Changes for Out-of-District Students—Teacher TRAC will pay for the in-district portion of tuition. Out-of-district students will pay for the difference between in and out-of-district tuition. **This proposed policy was tabled until further data collection.**

B. Linda led discussion of priorities for funding

1. Funders' priorities—a) income eligibility--currently anyone qualifies (will change in fall 08 to 200 percent of FPL); b) currently returning students have funding priority over new students; c) currently priority is given to Rising Star or Mentor Centers; d) currently it is a requirement that students live and/or work in Travis County.
2. Other priorities—a) current students will be grandfathered in when approved funding changes take effect fall 2008; b) a Teacher TRAC student is no longer considered a continuing student if s/he is out for two consecutive semesters or two semesters in a year (not including summer).
3. Linda discussed the handout on the number of Teacher TRAC students per center. It was discussed whether out-of-district centers and centers who enroll several students per semester should contribute to tuition and/or have limits on number of students accepted each semester. **The decision was tabled to gather data and propose a fair cap.**

V. **Other Issues**

- A. Committee discussed that, due to lack of funding, the number of students who were not funded for spring 2008 was 145. It was suggested that training programs offer CEUs through ACC for those who do not get funded. This would also help with centers that are working on accreditation. It was recommended this be a continuing series--not just a one shot deal. **The committee decided to explore the suggestions at a later date.**