Teachers for a New Era  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

CURRICULUM

Curriculum activities for TNE at UWM are under the auspices of the Design Teams in the areas of humanities, social sciences, sciences, arts, mathematics and cultures and communities. The teams are composed of 10-16 members divided among faculty from Letters and Sciences (L&S), Peck School of the Arts (PSOA), School of Education (SOE), deans from L&S, Milwaukee Public School (MPS) teachers, and MPS administrators.

The team activities for the year 2004-2005 have centered on reviewing the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards (http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/standards/) and the MPS Learning Targets (http://www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/pages/MPS/News/LearningTargets) within the team’s specific content area. In addition, they have reviewed the current teacher preparation program at UWM and the PSOA and L&S courses in which most pre-ed majors enroll from the respective disciplines. Each team also studied the state licensing legislation (PI34) and discussed the implications the PRAXIS II exam might have on the curriculum. The PRAXIS II exam is the professional assessment exam for beginning teachers administered through Educational Testing Service.

A primary effort of all the design teams has been the monthly meetings of MPS teachers and L&S, PSOA, and SOE faculty. TNE has provided the impetus to initiate and maintain conversations about teacher preparation in Milwaukee. A significant surprise to many team members from L&S is the large number of pre-ed majors in specific discipline courses. With this realization, most teams have started an in depth review of the alignment of their discipline courses with the state and local standards, and many are already preparing course action forms for changes.

Challenges included administrative issues such as finding common meeting times, to the more substantive, such as moving beyond the alignment of courses to the state standards toward curricular and pedagogical reform in both L&S and SOE.

Plans are in place for next year. The teams will concentrate on making the curricular changes needed to bring the discipline courses taken by pre-ed majors into alignment with the state standards and requirements for PI34. The teams will also focus primary discussions on induction issues and program assessment.