

We have been trying for the past month, with no success, to resolve the student teaching intern supervision issue outlined in the email messages below. The dean of the Seidel School (Dr. Parks) has turned down my invitation to meet with the SCED/K12 curriculum committee to discuss the issue, and she has also turned down my invitation to have a meeting with education program coordinators. Normally, those meeting venues would be the appropriate places for the voice of the faculty to be heard on an issue of this nature. It is rather unprecedented, at least in my time at SU, that a dean would make such a sweeping unilateral decision and then refuse to meet with faculty in such a venue to discuss it. So, as a last resort, I would like to ask faculty senate to review the issue.

If senate does decide it is appropriate to take up this issue, it may be helpful for them to have the following concise summary of it:

- Prior to February 19, 2015, supervision of 4 student teaching interns counted as 3 credits toward load. On February 19, Dr. Parks announced, via an email to all education faculty, that supervision of 6 student teaching interns would count as 4 credits toward load. This was a unilateral decision on her part, made without input from the faculty.
- Supervising one student teaching intern requires a minimum of 17 contact hours, as outlined in the attached table. It also requires additional time-consuming duties, including driving from campus to the school site, coordinating schedules of the intern, mentor, and supervisor to arrange visitation times, completing formal written evaluations of the intern's performance, conferencing with the intern about his/her teaching effectiveness, composing weekly written feedback on the intern's teaching, writing reference letters and responding to reference checks as the intern begins to apply for full-time teaching positions, and arranging additional meetings when an intern struggles. In summary, supervising an intern requires, at minimum, the number of hours one would spend on campus to teach a one-credit course.
- Because intern supervision requires, at minimum, the number of hours one would spend on campus to teach a one-credit course, even the old arrangement of awarding 3 credits toward load for supervising four interns was problematic in terms of faculty load. Awarding only 4 credits toward load for supervising 6 interns will make it virtually impossible to maintain the current model of observing interns once per week.
- Faculty members believe that the current model of visiting interns once per week should be kept in place. This was affirmed by a 15-0 vote of the Secondary/K12 curriculum committee this month. Its members consist of faculty from Seidel, Henson, and Fulton who are involved in secondary teacher education.
- The current model of visiting interns once per week is stated in the SU intern supervision handbook: http://www.salisbury.edu/pds/Field_Exp_Tools/Handbooks/Secondary%20Handbook%20Picture%20Updates%20December%202011.pdf. It was endorsed by the Secondary Curriculum Committee in 2011 (p. 3). The document is posted on the SU Professional Development Schools (PDS) website, which is maintained by the office of the Seidel Dean.
- No one has brought an alternative model for student teaching intern supervision to the Secondary/K12 curriculum committee. No faculty member has done so, and the Seidel Dean has not done so. So, it is not clear how faculty members supervising interns are to proceed next semester, when the number of contact hours per intern will be well in excess of the contact hours required to teach a one-credit course on campus.

I am very sorry to have to ask the senate to consider this issue. Frankly, I am shocked and embarrassed that we have not been able to resolve it within the Seidel School. Our within-school lines of communication have never before been so badly broken.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Thank you for considering this request.

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Table 1. Minimum contact hours required of a university supervisor for one intern

Time period	Activities	Hours required
Week 1	Preside over a meeting with intern and high school mentor teacher to convey expectations for the first half of the experience.	1
Weeks 2-3	Observe the intern's teaching at least once per week.	2
Week 4	Preside over a meeting with intern and mentor teacher to evaluate the intern's performance and give feedback.	1
Week 5-7	Observe the intern's teaching at least once per week.	3
Week 8	Preside over a meeting with the intern and mentor teacher to perform a final evaluation of the first half of the experience.	1
Week 9	Preside over a meeting with intern and middle school mentor teacher to convey expectations for the first half of the experience.	1
Weeks 10-11	Observe the intern's teaching at least once per week*.	3
Week 12	Preside over a meeting with intern and mentor teacher to evaluate the intern's performance and give feedback.	1
Weeks 13-14	Observe the intern's teaching at least once per week.	3
Week 15	Preside over a meeting with the intern and mentor teacher to perform a final evaluation of the second half of the experience.	1
TOTAL		17

*Middle school classes conventionally meet 90 minutes per session rather than one hour.