Members present: Laura Aboyan, Lauren Brown, Nate Carnes, Rob Dedmon, Ed Dickey, Lara Ducate, Peter Duffy, Tommy Hodges, Olga Ivashkevich, Susi Long, Hiram McDade, Stephanie Milling, Lynda Nilges, Gerry Solomon, Lucy Spence, Wendy Valerio, David Virtue, Donna Watson, Lemuel Watson, Beth White, Cookie Winburn

I. Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Nilges called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes
Dr. Duffy moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Hodges seconded the motion. The minutes were subsequently approved.

III. Updates from the February Meeting
a. SPA Rejoinders (Laura Aboyan)
   Next deadline is 9/15/15; Should shoot for this deadline; can submit in March 2016 as needed.

b. Read to Succeed Update (Rob Dedmon)
   Mr. Dedmon reviewed the Read to Succeed information presented at the February 2015 meeting. He shared a document outlining the proposals from each program for how they plan to address the Read to Succeed requirements. Mr. Dedmon will review the proposals with Dean Watson and will then submit the proper documentation to the SC Department of Education (SCDE). Dr. Carnes asked about the deadline for submission. Mr. Dedmon said he would like to get the current group sent to the SCDE within the next two weeks.

   Dr. Carnes asked about the need to address the number of credit hours in each program. Mr. Dedmon said programs will have to think strategically about how to address this concern without increasing the number of credit hours required for graduation.

   Mr. Dedmon shared a document from the SCDE that outlines the proposed changes to the Read to Succeed requirements for each program area. Dean Watson shared this information with the committee after reviewing it with the SC Education Deans’ Alliance. In some areas, the SCDE is requesting meetings with program representatives to determine how the requirements best fit into the content area. Mr. Dedmon covered the proposed changes to the requirements for speech language pathology, which may no longer require six credit hours, but rather incorporation of six specific areas of literacy into existing courses. Proposed changes in K-12 programs areas now ask for a three hour
course in reading and writing in the content area. Additional required experience will be earned during in-service work.

c. Reading Across the Content Area (Lucy Spence)
Dr. Spence explained the existing reading and writing in the content area course from the MEd program in Language and Literacy, which is designed to help content area teachers understand how reading and writing comprehension evolves in various areas at different ages. There is a second route this can take – how are these skills actually applied in a real world setting for a musician or a dancer. Dr. Spence offered to work together with each K-12 area to incorporate their areas into their existing course, or to help these programs develop their own courses. Dr. Milling is concerned that it isn’t clear exactly what the SCDE is asking for. Dr. Dickey suggested looking at the competencies for each area and determine how they can apply to the discipline in question. Dr. Duffy mentioned that his theatre students take the existing EDRD 730 class (reading and writing in the content area), and they have found it to be very useful. This may be a solution for MAT programs in the PEU.

Dr. Ducate asked if there were any courses at the undergraduate level that could be removed to make room for this course. Mr. Dedmon said that as long as the accreditation requirements are met, it is possible, though it would be better not to. Dr. Nilges wondered if it was possible to create a course that included a practicum component so they could apply the knowledge as they’re learning it, ideally before student teaching. This would require the development of a new course that could be taken concurrently with internship I/A. Dr. Virtue asked about an undergraduate course Dr. Spence had been working on that would possibly go across all areas. Dr. Valerio asked who would teach this course – would it be a content area specialist? Dr. Spence said it would be possible to find someone with an interest in literacy spanning all areas that could teach the course. Dr. Nilges thinks the best use of resources would be to have a centralized course in the College that touched each area in conjunction with a practicum. Dr. Carnes stressed that it is very important to demonstrate the connection between literacy and the specific content area.

Dr. Nilges asked when a proposed new course might need to be submitted. Mr. Dedmon said that the Fall 2016 bulletin needs to reflect the new information, so early in fall 2015, a clear path for implementing the course should be laid out. Bulletin changes would need to be approved by the College by October so they can go to faculty senate by December. Dr. Milling asked if the K-12 areas wanted to meet with Dr. Spence to work on developing a course or editing her existing course. Dr. Nilges will coordinate the meeting.

IV. New Business
a. Curriculum Update (Rob Dedmon)
Mr. Dedmon suggested that moving forward, as courses across programs are changed, these changes be shared with the committee so other programs can explore other options. In the past year, most changes have been related to the increase in GPA requirement and Read to Succeed.
b. SC Teacher’s Loan and TEACH Grant (Rob Dedmon)
There are new areas eligible for the loan and grant this year. Programs in art, dance, and physical education are now eligible. Music is no longer eligible.

Dean Watson gave a brief CAEP update. He will be participating in training this summer. Marcia Berry from the SCDE will also attend training and will be bringing this training back to South Carolina.

Dr. Virtue adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.