

Title of Session: Teacher Education Faculty Forum
Moderator: Marianne Handler and Jan Naher-Snowden
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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

MarianneH: Luz, are you teacher ed faculty?

LuzMM: no ma'am

LuzMM: is that bad?

Jan_NS: depends on your perspective!

Jan_NS grins

MarianneH: nope, curious... asked the question wrong... how about telling me what brought you here cause I think I am the only one who doesn't know you.

Jan_NS: New person for me, too, Marianne.

LuzMM: well, I am a PUMA student (Pre-Service Teacher for the University of Houston Main Campus in Houston

Jan_NS: Welcome, nonetheless

LuzMM: I am in my last semester and I grad this fall

Jan_NS: ah, see, Marianne

LuzMM: It's a requirement for professional development that I attend two events

Jan_NS: Tell us about PUMA.

MarianneH: Luz, you may be just the person Jan and I needed to come tonight.

LuzMM: I thought this one looked interesting

BJ chuckles mischievously...

LuzMM: Also I have been a TA for HISD for the last 3 years

BJ: Luz, this is your chance to razz all your teachers...THEY are the ones who should be attending this discussion!

LuzMM: GREAT I am ready to do that

Jan_NS: I can imagine!

MarianneH: Luz, when you hear the term pre-service teacher do you think of your fellow students or do you think of the faculty who teach in your program?

JeffC joined the room.

Jan_NS considers the possibilities of razzing professors and has some interesting ideas.

LuzMM: well I think a little of both

Jan_NS: Hi, Jeff. Welcome!

JeffC waves

LuzMM: When I hear preservice I take the title literal

MarianneH: Well, when a new student comes to UH how do you think they see it?

LuzMM: but then I think it can apply to the faculty as well

Jan_NS: before - service (as in working in a real teaching job)

LuzMM: right Jan

JeffC: I dropped in to vent... and raise an issue regarding online facilitation. Let me know when I can chime in.

LuzMM: I think they see it as it's the faculty

MarianneH: In Illinois (where I am) a teacher candidate is how we would refer to you and your fellow students and preservice teachers are teachers of preservice teacher candidates.

LuzMM: wow its sounds like an elections to teach

LuzMM: the title I mean

MarianneH: The reason for asking is to make sure we can clearly invite you students to the forum where you can interact with each other and hopefully more will come.

MarianneH: never thought of that way

Jan_NS: In Ohio (where I am) preservice teachers are those students studying to become teachers. Teacher Education Faculty are those who teach the students

MarianneH thinks of how her colleagues will like that idea this year

LuzMM: Well, that sounds about right. I think my professor's title is the same

Jan_NS: Interesting!

MarianneH: the second part is VERY clear but I can learn to remember the Ohio way (and I guess the Texas way)

MarianneH smiles

MarianneH: Hi Jeff

LuzMM: LOL

JeffC: Hi Marianne

MarianneH: How are things going this year?

LuzMM: Well that is one things about Texas we always have something to learn... it's never ending

JeffC: I wanted to talk about a very frustrating experience I just had with PBS.

MarianneH: go for it

LuzMM: yeah I'd like to hear about it

Jan_NS: Actually, the session following this one in about 45 minutes is the one that might be more interesting for you. Our topics are very different for tonight, Luz

JeffC: Well... PBS has a pretty dynamite program going where teachers train about how to become "online facilitators" for Capstone courses (getting teachers to integrate tech with curriculum and align to standards).

LuzMM: ok what is the name of it

Jan_NS: Although, what Jeff has to talk about might be more interesting in terms of online discussion.

JeffC: I was accepted into the program, did quite well with the first course, was well into the next two courses to prepare me for actual facilitating... which would have paid \$2,000 for facilitating a course.

JeffC: I then find out... that the universities that are working with PBS demand that the facilitators have a masters degree.

JeffC: Well... sooo... I'm out.

JeffC: The main issue for me is that it's the brick and mortar institution dictating policy to the online facilitating group about what the requirements would be... let alone having all this come after several months of work that I did... "for nothing."

MarianneH: That was never revealed in the prereqs??

JeffC: Nope

JeffC: It might have been added after the fact... an oversight... who knows.

Jan_NS: wow, I would be hot under the collar, so to speak.

JeffC: It raises larger issues for me regarding advanced degrees.

Jan_NS: and that is?...

JeffC: To get a Masters, one has to spend at minimum \$17K, upwards of \$40K.

LuzMM: Ouch

JeffC: And most masters degrees in brick and mortar institutions have virtually nothing on virtual education (like that repetition?).

Jan_NS: unless you want to be impoverished and be a TA or whatever.

JeffC: I'm impoverished already... and pretty fed up with education.

Jan_NS: I can imagine.

Jan_NS: The problem with having to join the club.

JeffC: A masters degree means *nothing* in regards to how one will facilitate an online course.

MarianneH: I must say I am surprised. When Connected Classroom offered courses for credit through a university that was also a requirement.

MarianneH: Would the courses you would facilitate be for institutional credit somewhere?

JeffC: Exactly... and what bothers me the most is that the brick and mortars seem to hold the cards... because there isn't really any online institution that one can apply to and get a legitimate "masters" degree for online work.

Jan_NS: It might be because most teachers these days have to get a Masters degree within a very short time of beginning a full-time job.

JeffC: Possibly so Marianne... and of course... there's the rub. All higher ed requires at least a MAT to teach.

MarianneH: I am not sure that is correct, Jeff. But the online intuitions also would have a fee structure. There are online MED programs

Jan_NS: My teacher friends are very irritable about details like whether or not an instructor is qualified to be teaching them.....

JeffC: Right... here in Oregon you get three years before you're magically supposed to get a Masters.

Jan_NS: and most of them expect their instructor to be further along than they are.

MarianneH: Will an Oregon institution give you credit for the PBS courses as electives towards a masters?

Jan_NS: Jeff, you are accurate about the higher ed teaching.

JeffC: Well... that's one of the major problems with online ed... there are a number of people with MATs that can't send email.

Jan_NS: I hear you!

JeffC: Possibly Marianne... but that means jumping through a number of hoops to get a brick and mortar institution to accept online credits... and that is virtually impossible.

MarianneH: That is institution dependent and often when they got a masters

Jan_NS: In Ohio the courses for undergrads are being restructured with the intention that all tech. be integrated into the major methods courses and 80% of the faculty teaching those courses have trouble finding a file after they save it.

LuzMM: OOh that is so true!

MarianneH: Have you discussed with PBS about making others aware of this before they start? I do think that PBS should have known this or asked you.

LuzMM: That is a normal occurrence at UH

Jan_NS: Maybe not that bad, but still ridiculous.

LuzMM: most professors do not even know how to use a floppy

LuzMM: sad isn't it

JeffC: I'm tempted to go to a diploma mill and get one... just for the heck of it. Of course... I don't have the money for that either. Here's the basic point: Status Quo excludes a large number of qualified educators due to requirements that are out of touch with real life requirements, as well as financial burdens.

MarianneH: We ran into a problem of what integration meant... often faculty think that is only a student responsibility../.

MarianneH: not a modeling requirement for teachers

JeffC: Tech integration with curriculum is also a passé idea... it's tech *transformation of curriculum* that is cutting edge.

Jan_NS: or that integration is using Powerpoint to supplement lectures.

Jan_NS: ah, I like that phrase.

MarianneH: HEY, you came to visit and I missed you!!

LuzMM: Well this may be funny, but this is my tech integration for my professor

LuzMM: we have 3 classes and they are taught the last 3 semesters b/f grad

MarianneH: Jeff.. not all intuitions are diploma mills... Oregon has a good reputation and you may need to investigate what you can do... but don't sell yourself short.

MarianneH: what is b/f

LuzMM: before

LuzMM: sorry

MarianneH: before getting an undergrad degree?

LuzMM: yes

JeffC: I don't have money for a higher degree... regardless of where it comes from now.

MarianneH: If I were a parent paying tuition I might be pretty unhappy with that

Jan_NS: try paying two tuitions!

MarianneH: Been there done that!!

Jan_NS: yeah, ugh.

MarianneH: now my kids are paying college tuition and we have had that discussion in terms of the value of attending small schools

LuzMM: well believe me, UH does charge for it

Jan_NS: Jeff, I got my first masters on the Univ. after the first semester.

MarianneH: 'splain that one, Jan

Jan_NS: I was a TA for the remainder of my course work, got a very small stipend (barely enough to live on), and my tuition and fees were covered.

MarianneH: Some colleges also have student worker funds toward courses also.

MarianneH: Ah.. I did that with my CAS in technology... I had a masters so as an adjunct I got one course for each one I taught

Jan_NS: I have done that with the majority of my doctoral work that way too

MarianneH: Me too

JeffC afks (kids need tending to).

MarianneH: Jeff, all of us struggle with the issues of life long learning both on a personal level as well as the professional responsibility.

LuzMM: the state of Texas pays for tuition if you're a TA or substitute studying education

MarianneH: And kids do need tending... easier with two parents around but also possible with one.

MarianneH: WOW, Luz, that is not around a lot any more..

LuzMM: Yes I know

LuzMM: My family was very lucky

LuzMM: they also, waive your student teaching

MarianneH: I think Jeff is describing a problem for a lot of good teachers who want to stay in the field

MarianneH: Luz, isn't that because they are being 'supervised' in their own classrooms?

LuzMM: its funny u say that, because the state of Texas is paying my tuition because they want to get me into the classroom ASAP. WHY? Because there are so many experienced teachers leaving the classrooms.

Jan_NS: If no one minds, I am going to get my dinner and be right back.

MarianneH: Jeff says he is in a state that says a Mstrs in 3 yrs after starting... I think we say 5 in secondary and I am not sure there is a requirement for elementary

Jan_NS: It is 8:40 here in Ohio.

LuzMM: Well, they waive it because most TA's have been in and out of the classrooms for 3 years or more

MarianneH: Luz do you have after graduations?

Jan_NS: 5 years in OH for everyone.

Jan_NS: brb.

LuzMM: After graduations?

LuzMM: what is that

MarianneH: yes

MarianneH: be right back

LuzMM: ok

MarianneH: for teaching and thoughts about more education

MarianneH: Were U describing yourself.. do you have a classroom now?

LuzMM: no I did last year

MarianneH: and now?

LuzMM: I am in a class right now as a TA to as teacher

LuzMM: all my classmates are

MarianneH: is that a part of your clinical experience

LuzMM: UH picks the teacher and the school, we go and TA in their room for a semester

MarianneH: as in student teaching?

LuzMM: yes ma'am, but there is two parts in Texas

LuzMM: two parts to student teaching

LuzMM: one semester is observational

MarianneH: And they are?

LuzMM: we help the teacher

LuzMM: the second semester, instructional we are the teachers 90% of the time

LuzMM: classroom teacher observes us

LuzMM: I am exempt from the instructional

LuzMM: not the observational

MarianneH: and how are you using technology during this time?? did the classroom teacher model it for you or do you think s/he is learning from you?

LuzMM: well, at UH in the college of education Technology integration is extremely encouraged

LuzMM: for every class we had to use some kind of technology in all assignments

LuzMM: my classroom teacher doesn't use very much technology other than for email

LuzMM: she does not integrate it with the kids learning

LuzMM: UH is very against that.

LuzMM: we were taught that is a very important

LuzMM: so we had 3 tech classes that teach us how to integrate

MarianneH: So what is she seeing you do during your teaching time... does she let you try things. I am sure UH is very supportive of integration. Dr. Pierson is a friend of mine.

LuzMM: Yes ma'am Dr. Pierson was my professor last semester

LuzMM: well, since this semester is mainly observational I haven't really show her anything

MarianneH: I guess you see you UH students as being leaders in helping the teachers in the schools see good use of technology when you bring what you have learned to their classes, hopefully.

LuzMM: But, this coming week my partner and I will be creating a webquest to use in her classroom

MarianneH: Great!!

LuzMM: We will be teaching a lesson on money for social studies to the 1st graders

LuzMM: Dr. Mary Thompson is my professor

MarianneH: And does she use technology in her teaching?

LuzMM: and she had us to a scavenger hunt at the school that we are all doing out observations

MarianneH: Interesting, how did she do that?

LuzMM: She wanted us to see how the elementary used technology

BJ: Mary is wonderful! She is one of the few teachers who logs in with her students when she requires them to tour Tapped In

LuzMM: we found out that the elementary has an ancillary class that teaches kids tech

LuzMM: but that eventually the teachers will be able to check the lab out for their integration use in lessons

LuzMM: YUP that would be her

LuzMM: and that's why I am here

MarianneH: And can they use what they learn in there other classes

LuzMM: I love her though, because I have learned so much about tech in the last 3 classes

LuzMM: I never knew how to make a web page

LuzMM: now I do

MarianneH: Can you go and observe in the class that teaches tech to kids?

LuzMM: I know so many more programs

LuzMM: yes they can

LuzMM: yes ma'am

LuzMM: we can

LuzMM: have we... no not really

MarianneH: UH is a great model for other colleges of ed in the way they help their students learn the way technology fits with teaching and learning.

LuzMM: the observational classes plus our methods courses keep us so busy we haven't had a chance to

LuzMM: I know that they play educational games though

LuzMM: and use drawing programs

MarianneH: Ahhhh, let's talk about those educational games a minute.

LuzMM: ok

LuzMM: I don't find them very educational, but hey I'm not the teacher

LuzMM: YET

LuzMM: that's what they are labeled though

MarianneH: I think it might be interesting -- sometime -- for you to think about how or if a (or the) teacher links what is happening when students 'play' games to the what the goals of teaching and learning is for that time.

LuzMM: I think a child can learn so much more through different practices

LuzMM: Dr. Thompson and Dr. Pierson hate hearing about what we see in the school sometimes

MarianneH: we would all agree with I am sure.

LuzMM: Most of the teachers will tell you bluntly that even if they can check out the labs for their lessons they don't plan to

MarianneH: Sad for their students. Have you started thinking about what and where you would like to teach after graduation?

LuzMM: well, I would like to teach in Fort bend ISD or Alief ISD

LuzMM: But my main goal would be Katy ISD

LuzMM: that is where I went to school

LuzMM: I want to leave HISD

LuzMM: to many things I have seen that I don't like

LuzMM: I am sure you all have seen the news in the last year and can imagine why

LuzMM: I will probably TA until May then starting Aug begin with my own classroom and a fresh new year

MarianneH: And what level would you like to teach?

LuzMM: I have taught all grades ranging from PreK-8th

LuzMM: I like all of them

LuzMM: right now I am leaning towards 1st though

LuzMM: or 4th

MarianneH: Well, Luz perhaps you will join us again in a few minutes for the PreService Teachers Forum.

LuzMM: Love too

BJ wonders if Luz is a member of the K to 3 Resource Room

LuzMM: where will it be

MarianneH: WE need to be moving over there. Thanks, Luz and Jeff.

LuzMM: no I don't, but I can find it

MarianneH: BJ, Are we in the Tap Cafe?

BJ: PreService teachers will meet in the Cafe

BJ nods to Marianne

MarianneH: Thanks to all and see you next month.

