



FUTURE EDUCATORS ACADEMY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2025

Present: Mary Beth Dodson, Lori Killough, Aimee Miller, Karen Ellis, Heather Bragg, Chloe Edwards, Meaghan Brill, Nicole Munday, Rob Hauman, Whitney Boring, Jeri Swogger, Silvia Restivo, Jessica Nail, Cathy Jones, Renee Honaker, Heidi Michael, and Brenda Byard

Brenda welcomed everyone.

Old Business

Ribbon Cutting on Aug. 12th: Lori discussed the success of the Laurel Ridge FEA ribbon cutting on August 12th. We had representation from both VDOE and the Governor's office. Brenda reported that we welcomed second lab school in service region, the "Data and Computer Science" lab school at Dowell J. Howard Center in Frederick County which hosted their ribbon cutting ceremony on September 3. Governor Youngkin spoke at this event.

New Business

Brenda reported that ODU is our fiscal agent and has grant money that they put out for proposals for grants to all lab schools. We requested 3 proposals, one with the Computer & Data Sciences lab school dealing with recruitment. We sent out a postcard last year for FEA, and it was a little expensive. We are looking to send a postcard to all sophomores and their parents again this year. Lori and Mary Beth have requested names and addresses from school systems, so please send if you have not already. Applications will be available on October 6 with the due date of January 12, 2026. After January 12, we will be looking at numbers to determine campus sites. We will still accept applications if we have not met enrollment numbers. If there is an abundance of applications, we will have to use the lottery system for those who apply after the initial deadline. There were no further questions/comments.

We are also recreating posters that are given out to schools. Deb Crawford and her team at Computer & Data Science Lab School are also creating posters. Most of the \$10,000 from ODU for this grant is going to be used to create a website to promote lab schools along with other opportunities available to students in high school. The Governor's Student Advisory Committee recommended that each school division create a database to document opportunities available in high school so that parents and the community would know how to plan and see what's available. Brenda indicated that she is creating a form that will be sent to each of the instructional leaders to document what they want the site to reflect for each school division. For example, Project Lead the Way for Medical Sciences in Shenandoah County. The intent is to have a brief blurb about each activity and then link to each individual website so parents can get the most up-to-date information. Laurel Ridge will be working with our Marketing department. After that each school division will annually update/maintain their own programs. We expect \$10,000 will be paid for the personnel to create the website.

Recruiting

Lori (Laurel Ridge) reported that we have established Zoom sessions at 7:00 pm on various days of the week in November and December so students/parents can register to attend a slide seminar where Lori will give them an overview of the FEA program and answer questions.

Mary Beth (Germanna) will hold in-person meetings in each high school in each region with only one meeting online. They will also be attending college open house nights and working with counselors to schedule visits.

Karen asked if the counselors will be given dates/times so they are aware of when the Zoom meetings happen. Lori suggested she would like to know when open houses or other opportunities are available in high schools so that she can attend and meet with 10th graders or other ways to get in front of sophomores (college nights, etc.). Lori has been reaching out to counselors to arrange dates/times as well.

If anyone has other ideas to get in to speak with school staff to present FEA and how to recruit effectively, we welcome that. The more people who know about this the better. Brenda and Lori have done past presentations at Boards of Education meetings and will be happy to do so again.

FEA Course Credit Chart

Brenda put together a chart to document AP Test Options, Graduation Credit, and Dual Enrollment Options to be used by school divisions for students' high school transcripts.

Karen indicated there are some new administration at the high school so it's good to make sure we're all on same page. Brenda went through the chart with the Instructional Leaders. There was good discussion and consensus reached on each course offered and how it would count and be displayed on a student's high school transcript. This ensures consistency across FEA and with all the involved school divisions. Brenda will update the chart, and it will be sent out for everyone to begin sharing with counselors and for their Programs of Studies.

Sexually Explicit Content

Mary Beth said that our understanding is that sexually explicit content language must be vulgar to report but wants to know if that is the general understanding. Rob reported they have done a great deal of work to point out everything, including page numbers of new material that could be considered sexually explicit. The course materials provided were reviewed by the group. English 111-112 was the only concern amongst the group. It was felt there might be concern over a short story. Karen noted that for the required teacher licensure courses there are no "opt out" opportunities and thought it best to add a note to that effect. Renee recommended adding "unless required for teacher licensure" to the end of Statement #3—Ensure parents/guardians have the opportunity to select for their child the option of alternative instructional materials and related academic activities that do not contain sexually explicit conduct "unless required for teacher licensure".

Germanna Update

Mary Beth reported they are doing great. Their students are very excited, and their juniors have a 97% average across all classes and are really invested.

Laurel Ridge Update

Lori reported students are doing well and most have an A, with a few Bs in the Student Development course.

Teacher Residency Program Through VCU

VCU has announced a teacher residency program and has money to give away for our students to complete their last two years. Cathy reported that students may apply now through February 1. Students' coursework is through VCU and is paid for them to complete through the bachelors. Chloe said this is perfect for FEA students in the smaller school systems. Students can go right through the FEA program and continue to their school to work. Mentors for the students are being paid a \$3500 stipend and will also participate in a monthly training/check-in. The first year is three days/week in the school where the student works as an apprentice with two days per week for instruction. The second year is

four days/week in school. The student agrees to teach for three years in the school division that is sponsoring them. Their coursework is all online. Lori posted in Chat a YouTube video of Dr. Kim McKnight, director of the TRT program, explaining about the program. There is a follow-up meeting on Tuesday, September 29 from 1-3 p.m. Brenda noted this is a great opportunity for anyone that already has their associate or bachelor's degree. Mary Beth will forward the invitation to the Instructional Leaders. All are welcome to listen to and ask Dr. McKnight any questions. She currently has funds to support more prospective teachers.

Karen asked about counseling FEA students with college applications. Are they applying as they would regularly apply to colleges? Mary Beth said to let us know which schools they want to go to so we can work with them on their application. Mary Beth explained briefly how this works. Brenda said many schools are requiring a letter of intent and VCU will be coming to Germanna in December and Laurel Ridge in January. Laurel Ridge will be meeting with JMU very soon to discuss an articulation agreement. We are also working with Liberty and GMU.

If anyone has concerns or topics to discuss at future meetings, please send them to Brenda. Next meeting is December 15.