



Empower Subcommittee 10/13/25 Minutes

COMMITTEE PURPOSE: Serve as lead learners focus on best practices for literacy preparation and training; policy recommendations; research and strategies to advance educator expertise in literacy; monitor progress of the implementation of Imperative 2 – Empower strategies in the strategic plan.

The committee monthly meeting was held on October 13, 2025.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Carolyn Carlson, Amber Pagan, Dr. David Fernkopf, Dr. David Hurford, Dr. Kim Moody (Wilson), Dr. Charlene Laramore, Laurie Winter, Dr. Laurie Curtis, Deb Farr, and Dr Cynthia Lane

WELCOME, COMMITTEE PURPOSE, INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS:

Dr. Carlson called the meeting to order and welcomed the sub-committee members at 4:01. The agenda was reviewed.

Dr. Carlson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2025 meeting. The motion for approval was made by Dr. Laramore, second by Amber Pagan. The minutes were approved unanimously with no further discussion.

TOPIC DISCUSSION:

1. Dr. Lane facilitated the committee discussion the research article “Empowering future literacy instructors: the role of mastery experience in pre-service teachers’ literacy knowledge and self-efficacy” (Law, Boese, Roy, Boese and Scholes 14, Augst 2025).

Questions surfaced as a result of the conversation to include:

- A. What does field and practicum experience look like now and how are we assessing the impact on pre-service teachers (PSTs)?
- B. What does the research indicate is the necessary amount of time (dosing) to reach mastery of the teaching of Structured Literacy for a novice educator?
- C. When is cognitive science taught in pre-service programs and is the content embedded or explicitly included as a course?
- D. What is the flexibility to match skill development with PST learning continuum and the placement school’s structure?

The committee also discuss the necessity for universities to connect with their partner school districts and to align the literacy experiences with the district’s Accreditation Plan (KESA).

Additionally, Dr. Curtis shared the draft structured literacy look for tool that is in the pilot stage in districts. The committee was interested in exploring how this new observation tool might be used in educator preparation.

2. Additional discussion is needed to identify a common language pertaining to “field experiences,” practicum, student teaching, and clinical. Dr. Lane recommended that we engage the faculty to discuss how these important aspects of educator preparation are defined; what is currently being done to ensure PSTs have experience in authentic settings with skilled mentors and faculty to provide immediate feedback.
3. Dr. Carlson adjourned the committee meeting at 5:30

Upcoming Empower Sub-Committee Meetings – Virtual Only
November 10
January 12, 2026
February 9
April 13

Upcoming Full Advisory Committee Meetings – In Person		
• December 10, 2025	10:00 – 3:30	Kansas State University
• March 11, 2026	10:00 – 3:30	Wichita State University
• May 20, 2026	10:00 – 3:30	Washburn University