The informal portion of the meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

0. Core Committee Review & Discussion of Theatre Plan
The members reviewed the plan, available data, and supporting documentation for the MAT in Theatre and entertained discussion of the plan and its development at this point.

I. Call Formal Meeting to Order & Approval of February 17, 2006, Minutes
Dr. Dickey asked for introductions from the committee and provided an overview of the committee and its charges in relation to assessment procedures in the PEU. Mr. Hunter commented on the vitality and place of the MAT in the Department of Theatre & Dance and entertained ideas with the committee members for growing enrollment and faculty in the program in the future. The committee welcomed Ms. Dreher to the group and introduced themselves again.

II. Review of Theatre Assessment Plan & Data
Ms. Dreher provided an overview of the health of the MAT program and included student numbers, history of the program, and its place in the Department. Dr. Dickey asked Ms. Dreher to clarify what standards that program uses. She explained that they have used the conceptual framework, guidelines from the SC State Department of Education, and have tried to consistently integrate the State standards. Mr. Hunter reported that their professional association, National Association for Schools of Theatre (NAST), will be at USC for the onsite evaluation in February 2007. Dr. Dickey explained that the standards are what drive the assessment plan and should help identify what data are helpful at various points in the program.
Dr. Van Scoy called Ms. Dreher and Mr. Hunter’s attention to the layout of the assessment plan and how the standards can fit together in the plan. She explained that the standards from the professional associations are focused on performance-based assessments that display what candidates know and can do. Members had discussion on what key assessments in the MAT program may meet each of the NAST standards.
Dr. Dickey mentioned that the Praxis examination would be a helpful assessment and Ms. Stewart clarified which exams are required of candidates in this program. Members had discussion on other key assessments such as ADEPT and observation forms that are currently being used and will be helpful in the plan. In addition, they discussed what State standards are used for theatre candidates and Ms. Dreher agreed to look more closely at what these might be.
Members discussed what elements of the Department are reviewed during the NAST onsite evaluation and reminded the faculty representatives how the COE Office of Accreditation and Quality Assurance.

III. Committee Discussion of Recommendations & Procedures for Plan
Dr. Dickey informed the faculty representatives that the committee will develop a recommendation report based on the assessment plan. This plan will be sent to the program representatives for their review and any necessary updates to the plan. Dr. Van Scoy recommended that Ms. Connolly send an example of an assessment plan that includes professional association standards, the conceptual framework, and applicable data. The committee provided several suggestions for preparing a sound assessment plan, including the importance of adhering to the NAST standards first.

IV. Discussion of Approval of Recommendation Reports

A. Elementary Education (BA, MAT, PhD)
Dr. Van Scoy expressed concern about the language in the report that suggested the MAT had only just begun to collect data. The committee agreed that a parenthetical phrase should be added that makes explicit the fact that the program has been collecting data, but since implementing a new plan, some new data collection has begun to meet these new data. A suggested word change was offered to clarify the report for the PhD. The committee approved the reports, as amended.

B. Language & Literacy (MEd, PhD)
The committee entertained some discussion regarding the requirement for the cited 6-8 key assessments and how that is applicable. Ms. Connolly agreed to review IRA requirements in regard to the M.Ed. to assist with clarification. A web address will be added to the Recommendation Report for the M.Ed. for faculty to refer to appropriate requirements, when necessary. The committee approved the reports, as amended.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.