5.2.b Continuous Improvement

Since 2005, the most recent NCATE visit, there have been a number of additions to the Professional Education Faculty at Williams Baptist College (see Exhibit 5.3.a in the following section of this document). In 2011, Mr. Josh Austin joined the Williams faculty as an Instructor of Health and Physical Education as well serving as Head Coach of the men’s basketball team. In 2005, Dr. Steven Harthorn joined the Williams faculty as an Assistant Professor of English. In 2007, Mr. Frank Lee joined the Williams faculty as an Instructor of Physical Education and also serves as Head Coach of the men’s baseball team. In 2006, Mr. Eric Newell joined the Williams faculty as an Instructor of Physical Education and also serves as Head Coach of both the women’s softball and volleyball teams. In 2009, Mr. Daniel Spillman joined the Williams faculty as an Assistant Professor of History. Also in 2009, Mrs. Charlotte Wheeless joined the Williams faculty as an Assistant Professor of Education. All of these individuals are members of the WTEP.

Several additions have been made since the 2005 NCATE visit within the Clinical Education Faculty at Williams (see Exhibit 5.3.b in the next section of this document). Dr. Brad Baine, who joined the Williams faculty in 2004 as an Assistant Professor of Education, became Chair of the Education Department in 2008 and also assumed duties as a Clinical Supervisor in the WTEP. In 2012, Mr. David Tackett joined the Williams faculty as an Adjunct Instructor of Education and also serves as a Clinical Supervisor in the WTEP. And Mrs. Charlotte Wheeless has assumed duties as a Clinical Supervisor in the WTEP following her appointment in 2009 to the Williams faculty as an Assistant Professor of Education.

As Williams prepares its move toward target with regard to CAEP Standard 3—“Resources and practices [that] support teacher candidate learning”—plans are currently being made by each department within the WTEP to incorporate opportunities for service learning involving teacher candidates working directly with P-12 students. A number of faculty members at Williams have already incorporated service learning activities into their programs and courses since the inception of the Service Learning Program in the fall of 2009 by Dr. Steven Harthorn, Coordinator.

Finally, as the state of Arkansas anticipates the adoption of Common Core State Standards, Williams sees the ongoing need to continually reflect upon and accordingly revise the way we prepare our teacher candidates. We must train our WTEP faculty to become familiar with and understand these standards so that they are able to effectively implement them and also to supervise our teacher candidates who are charged with the responsibility of teaching according to these standards. We are currently in the process of partnering with local school districts to provide professional development opportunities to support and assist area teachers in interpreting and implementing the standards within their classrooms.