



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

The Graduate School

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REVISED

To: Phyllis Wise, Provost
Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean
Melissa Austin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

RE: Review of the College of Education

At its meeting of November 16, 2006, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the College of Education (Lowell L. Hargens, Professor, Sociology; Lawrence Snyder, Professor, Computer Science & Engineering; Lewayne D. Gilchrist, Professor, Social Work (Committee Chair) was not able to attend), and with Patricia A. Wasley (Dean, College of Education), Tom Stritikus (Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Associate Professor, College of Education), and Deborah E. McCutchen (Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Support, Professor, College of Education).

The College of Education is one of the oldest academic units at the UW. It has always prepared teachers and administrators for the schools in Washington State in addition to training professors and scholars for universities. In recent years, the College has also evolved into a research-oriented institution with a high priority for generating new knowledge about human learning. Currently, the College offers Master in Teaching (MIT), Master of Education (MEd), Doctor of Education (EdD), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees, in addition to numerous certificates and endorsements. The unit's degree programs were last reviewed in 1998-99, when continuing status for the MEd, EdD, and PhD degrees were reaffirmed and the MIT was also granted continuing status. A subsequent review was recommended in less than 10 years, to be coordinated with the agenda of the new College of Education Dean. The review committee, including its external members (Cassandra L. Book, Professor and Associate Dean for External Relations and Student Affairs, Michigan State University and Kris Gutierrez, Professor, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA), held its formal on-site review on May 24-25, 2006.

The review committee reported that the College of Education is on a clear upward trajectory both within the University and nationally, where it has risen steadily in the rankings. The number of recent excellent new hires among both faculty and staff combined with the considerable energy, skill, and vision of the Dean bode well for continuing success into the future. The review committee made two sets of recommendations, one to the College and the other to the University, as summarized below.

Principal recommendations to the College

1. Reconsider and revise current structures and procedures in the PhD program to improve recruitment, advising, support, and satisfaction of PhD students.
2. Continue to strengthen resources to recruit and retain a more diverse faculty and student body.
3. Encourage and structure more voice in administrative and governance matters for students and staff.
4. Allocate both conceptual and material resources toward ensuring the success of the newly redesigned Office of Student Services, including examining the relationship of this Office to the Director of Development role.
5. Allocate the resources necessary to design and launch the newly envisioned undergraduate minor in education.
6. Improve resources allocated to mentoring junior faculty, especially with regard to balancing teaching and research.
7. Continue and enlarge current collective efforts to envision a distinctive future identity and direction for the College.
8. Seek resources to extend the College's capacities in the area of electronic technology for both instructional and administrative purposes.

Principal recommendations to the University

1. Offer strong administrative support for the College's new undergraduate minor in education.
2. Support efforts by the College to improve and create new internal administrative computerized databases for student advising and support.

The representatives from the College commented that the recommendations of the report are being taken very seriously, in particular restructuring the PhD program and simplifying existing programs. The College recognizes that diversity remains a significant challenge. Although there have been improvements, they will continue to work on this issue, including allocating resources to hire a new diversity recruiter shared with the Information School. The Provost has provided initial support to this effort for three years. The Dean reported that the faculty understand the importance of increasing the student voice in governance and is seeking ways to improve the student experience in meaningful ways. The proposal for an undergraduate minor is now almost fully developed and funding is secure. The College plans to improve resources to mentor junior faculty, especially because senior faculty are currently retiring faster than associate professors are being promoted. The College appreciates the committee's recommendations on improving capacity for technology. This has been a significant challenge in an old building with a remodel not scheduled to start until 2011.

During the Council discussion, it was clarified that the average time to degree for the PhD is approximately six years, with variation depending on post-course work and proposal preparation. In the new Leadership for Learning (L&L) option of the EdD program, a cohort cycles through in three years, and this has been very successful. The College is pursuing conversations to build closer relationships with both the Biology for Teachers program and the Robinson Center. The Dean noted that, similar to half of the other Education institutions across the country, the UW College of Education has discontinued pursuing national accreditation because the process did not serve to improve the quality of education or strengthen the faculty.

The Graduate School Council recommended granting continuing status for the degree programs in the College of Education, with the next review during the 2015-2016 academic year. We concur with this recommendation.

cc: Patricia A. Wasley, Dean, College of Education
Tom Stritikus, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Education
Kimberly Friese, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
College of Education Review Committee
Graduate School Council
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School