



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

May 9, 2012

To: J. W. Harrington
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Washington, Tacoma

From: Gerald J. Baldasty, Vice Provost and Dean
James S. Antony, Associate Vice Provost and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Re: UW Tacoma Education Program 2011-2012 Review

This memorandum outlines the recommendations for the Education Program academic program review. Detailed comments can be found in the documents that were a part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee, department, and administrators (September 30, 2011)
- Program self-study (October 4, 2011)
- Site Visit (November 3-4, 2011)
- Review committee report (December 2, 2011)
- Program response to the review committee report (January 12, 2012)
- Program Addendum in response to committee report (January 27, 2012)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (March 15, 2012)

The review committee consisted of the following faculty:

Bradley Portin, Professor and Director, Education Program, UW Bothell
Ruth Rea, Associate Professor, Nursing Program, UW Tacoma
Daniel Hursh, Professor and Chair, Department of Technology, Learning and Culture
College of Human Resources and Education, West Virginia University
Benjamin Lignugaris-Kraft, Professor and Head, Department of Special Education and
Rehabilitation, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services,
Utah State University

A subcommittee of the Graduate School Council presented a summary of findings and recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on March 15, 2012. The Education Program offers the Master of Education which has two program tracks and a third option for non-degree seeking students.

1. Certification and M.Ed. track includes
 - a) Teacher certification K-8,
 - b) Teacher Certification K-8 and Special Education (Dual Track)
 - c) Secondary Teacher Certification: Mathematics and Science, and
 - d) Educational Administrator Certificate (Principal)
2. M.Ed for practicing educators track: It is for individuals with teaching experience.

3. Non-degree seeking: For individuals who have a Master's degree or want only an additional endorsement, Pathway 3, or the professional certificate.

Following are the specific comments and recommendations regarding the Education Program.

Program Strengths

The strengths of the Education Program were identified as the following.

- The Review Committee commended the Program's new leadership on organizational changes that have been implemented.
- The Program is highly regarded by the community, its students, and its advisory board.
- It is among the most productive of the academic units at the UW Tacoma in scholarship and grant production.
- Clearly, a great deal of progress has been made since the 2007 Interim Program Review.

Challenges and Risks

- **Coordination and Coherence of Certification Programs:**

The review committee was concerned about the perceived overlap between the existing certification programs, particularly that the K-8 and K-8 Dual Track programs “are built on very different philosophical bases and views of pedagogical practice.” Further, the committee noted “While these programs can co-exist in the near term, it will be difficult for them to co-exist in the long term because of the small numbers of faculty in the Education Program.”

The review committee recommended that the Program: a) clearly articulate the connections intended between the K-8 General Education, K-8 Dual Track, and Secondary Teacher Certification programs, and b) explore whether K-8 and Dual Track K-8 programs can and should both be offered over the long term.

- **Articulation of Requirements and Connections Between Programs:**

The faculty need to clarify requirements for the various Education Programs and connections between the programs.

- **Faculty Expectations, Workload, and Support:**

The self-study describes a variety of challenges related to staffing and workload issues, including support for junior faculty, adequacy of staff support for planned areas of expansion, and management of tensions between teaching and scholarship.

The review committee recommended that expectations for promotion and tenure for junior faculty be clarified, that clearer policies and practices be developed for mentoring both assistant and associate level faculty toward promotion, and that the role non-tenure line faculty can and should play in program decision-making also be clarified.

Areas of Concurrence/Disagreement

The Program faculty acknowledged concerns about the overlap between the two K-8 certification programs. The Program Director noted difficulty in implementing the recommendation that either the K-8 or Dual Track programs be discontinued. If one of the options were to be discontinued, a decrease in applicants would likely occur which would jeopardize economic sustainability of the program. A restructuring of the K-8 programs will occur that will enable

offering a K-8 general and special education option as well as a K-8 general and English language learners (ELL) option. The curriculum revision may increase enrollment in ELL teacher certification and ELL endorsement and result in better use of teaching resources. Faculty will continue efforts to strengthen the mentoring of assistant and associate professors, and remain mindful of full professors' workloads and continue to meet their teaching and research needs.

Graduate School Council Recommendations

The Graduate School Council concurred with the Review Committee recommendations. The Council recommended continuation of the programs offered by the Education Program, with the next review to occur in 2021-2022.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

- c: Debra Friedman, Chancellor, UW Tacoma
- Douglas Wadden, Executive Vice Provost, Office of the Provost
- Rebecca Aanerud, Associate Dean, The Graduate School
- Deborah Wiegand, Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
- Kären Landenburger, Director, Education Program, UW Tacoma
- Members of the Education Program Review Committee
- Graduate School Council
- Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School