REPORT FOR UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of the Issue:
For a number of years there has been discussion of how the programs involved in teacher education should be structured. Currently there are three departments, Curriculum and Instruction, Foundations of Education, and Special Education. Because the Departments of Curriculum and Instruction and Foundations of Education are both involved in the preparation of regular education teachers, it was proposed by the administration in the College of Education and Human Sciences that these two departments be merged. The motion to merge was voted on by each affected department separately, by the COEHS Academic Curriculum Committee, and by the faculty and staff in the College of Education and Human Sciences. All votes were in favor of the merger.

Points Discussed by the Committee:
The Committee discussed the following: timing of the merger vote; concerns within the departments regarding the process that led to the presentation of the recommendation to the departments, effect of the merger on DPC processes and annual and departmental reviews; whether the merger is in the best interests of the departments and college; and efficiencies that may be achieved as a result of the merger.

Pros:
Efficiencies that may result from the merger:
- Elimination of redundant sharing of information and involvement of faculty from both current units in discussions
- One person to chair both departments
- More efficiency in the use of support staff and student help
- Faculty in Foundations of Education will share in advising of C&I students, thereby reducing advising load of C&I faculty

Knowledge sharing and improved cooperative relationships among the faculty

Benefits to students from increased program cohesion and reduced advising loads

Cons:
The merger appears to have been imposed on the departments by the Administration
Previous proposals for restructuring and improved collaboration among faculty have been ignored.

Problems in collaboration and communication largely result from the location of education departments in two different buildings.

The benefits of the proposed merger are not supported by evidence.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Academic Policies Committee by a vote of 8 votes for and 1 vote against recommends to the University Senate that the Departments of Curriculum and Instruction and Foundations of Education be eliminated and that the two departments be merged to create a new department called the Department of Education Studies.

Implementation Date: Fall 2009

Barbara Lozar, Temporary Chair

Dr. Robert E. Hollon, Chair, on behalf of the University Senate Academic Policies Committee