

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The Department of Special Education is requesting a change to the name of the Department from “Special Education” to “Special Education and Inclusive Practices” for the next possible catalog. The name Special Education is often shortened to SPED, which is pejorative; the proposed department name better represents the inclusive nature of the programs and emphases offered. The Department has revised their special education major because of changes in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction legislative rules and will be proposing to rename one of their emphases to align with these legislative changes.

The Department of Special Education is also requesting two new course prefixes: SEIP – Special Education and Inclusive Practices and UEM - Unified Elementary/Middle. The requested SEIP prefix will help eliminate the continued pejorative use of the acronym SPED in social, school, and institutional of higher education (IHE) environments, including course identifiers. The new UEM prefix will differentiate the developmental ranges of the courses that are specific to the elementary and middle level coursework in the program. The prefix is parallel to the UEC (Unified Early Childhood) prefix that identifies the early childhood developmental range and will provide identifiers other than special education content to those students taking the courses and their future employers.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Contrast of proposed department name with other institutions.
2. Origin and utilization of “SPED” in the education profession.

Pros of Recommendation:

Department of Special Education unanimously approved the name change.
Change aligns with Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requirements that went into effect August 2018.

Cons of Recommendation:

none

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the name change of the Department Special Education to “Department of Special Education and Inclusive Practices” for the next possible catalog.

The committee approved the two new prefixes: SEIP – Special Education and Inclusive Practices and UEM - Unified Elementary/Middle for the next possible catalog.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 6 for to 0 against on November 12, 2019 (Date)

Recommends that:

The rename of the Department Special Education to “Department of Special Education and Inclusive Practices” for the next possible catalog, starting 2020-2021 AY.

The creation of two new prefixes: SEIP – Special Education and Inclusive Practices and UEM - Unified Elementary/Middle for the next possible catalog, starting 2020-2021 AY.

Implementation Date: 20/21 catalog

Signed: _____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office