
Utah State University

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
REGENTS’ OFFICES, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

MAY 30, 2008

Utah State Board of Regents
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents Building, The Gateway
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284
May 21, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents
FROM: David L. Buhler
SUBJECT: Information Calendar: Academic, Career and Technical Education and Student Success (Programs) Committee

The following has been submitted by Utah State University for consideration by the Regents on the Information Calendar of the Programs Committee.

Restructure of Elementary and Secondary Education into New Unit

Request: Utah State University requests approval to restructure its Elementary Education and Secondary Education departments into a School of Teacher Education and Leadership. This request is not for a new program or department; instead, the request is to reorganize two existing departments into one unit which can more effectively address the shared mission of K-12 teacher education at undergraduate and graduate levels. Restructuring would be effective Fall 2008. This proposal was approved by the Utah State University Board of Trustees on March 7, 2008.

Need: At the undergraduate level, the Elementary Education Department prepares students for licensure in early childhood (K-3), elementary (1-8), and middle level education (5-9), and the Secondary Education Department prepares students for both middle level and secondary education (6-12). At the graduate level, the two departments offer separate master’s and specialist’s degrees, but collaborate extensively in offering dual-listed courses, state-approved teaching endorsements, the administrative/supervisory certificate, and doctoral (EdD and PhD) programs.

The current organizational structure separating elementary from secondary education is out of the national mainstream. For 2008, U.S. News and World Report ranked USU’s College of Education and Human Services in the top two percent of all colleges nationally (26th among 1200 colleges). However, of the 25 top-ranked colleges of education, only one separates elementary and secondary education into two units.

The proposed School of Teacher Education and Leadership would unify the undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs into a single K-12 structure with one administrative head. The overarching aim of reorganization is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of USU’s K-12 teacher preparation as well as its preparation of education leaders. The rationale for restructuring the two departments into a School of Teacher Education and Leadership includes the following goals:
• To better address Utah’s critical teacher shortage and to respond effectively to the increased scrutiny of teacher preparation at state and national levels.
• To enhance K-12 partnerships with local educational agencies.
• To realign K-12 teacher preparation with Utah State Office of Education licensure and with national directions.
• To create a better middle-level education program.
• To increase the efficiency of K-12 advising and field experiences.
• To advance interdisciplinary K-12 external funding proposals and research.
• To streamline administration of K-12 graduate degree programs and endorsements.
• To streamline administration of K-12 offerings through Regional Campuses and Distance Education (RCDE).
• To foster K-12 faculty subgroups of shared professional interest for better collaboration.
• To enhance the recruitment of high quality faculty and leadership candidates—graduate students.
• To foster ongoing program evaluation and increase the efficiency of accreditation reviews.
• To reduce redundancy.

**Institutional Impact:** The proposed restructuring will not affect enrollments in the two programs.

The proposed restructuring will result in a single administrative unit named the School of Teacher Education and Leadership (TEAL), with a single Department Head who will also carry the title of Associate Dean for Teacher Education and Leadership. See attached organizational chart. The shaded area of the chart indicates the proposed changes. As shown on the chart, the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation (SPER) will be affiliated with the School of TEAL; however, the SPER Department will remain an independent department because of its highly specialized mission.

No new physical facilities or equipment will be required. Many faculty and staff will relocate within the third-floor space currently allocated to the two departments in the Emma Eccles Jones Education Building. For example, advising and field experience personnel from the two departments will occupy a single space on the third floor to integrate services, rather than two separated spaces. And faculty with a shared professional interest will be located in proximity to one another.

The number of faculty and professional staff will not change. The current staffing numbers are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department Head</td>
<td>1 (interim DH)</td>
<td>1 (interim DH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenure-track Faculty</td>
<td>15 (&amp; 1 in RCDE)</td>
<td>9 (&amp; 1 in RCDE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Faculty</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 (&amp; 3 in RCDE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Experience</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Finances:** No additional costs or savings are anticipated. Currently, 12-month salaries for two department heads are required. The proposed restructuring will require a single 12-month department head salary. The salary savings from the reduction of one department head will be used to enhance the salaries of three individuals who will assume increased responsibilities as program chairs within the School of TEAL and to enhance the salary of a single individual who will coordinate K-12 advising and field experiences personnel.
Commissioner’s Recommendation

Commissioner recommends that the Regents review these information item. No action is required.

David L. Buhler
Interim Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/HPN