Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services, July 10, 2008 – Department Name Change: The Department of Instructional Technology to the Department of Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences

Utah State University

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY, CEDAR CITY, UTAH

JULY 10 – 11, 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
Development. This change will not affect any instructional activities. All course requirements for the emphasis will stay the same.

**Need:** This change is requested to more accurately reflect the content of the emphasis and reduce confusion that students have who want to study adulthood or adolescence. It is not a life-span human development emphasis. It is an emphasis in infancy and early childhood.

**Institutional Impact:** This proposed change will not affect enrollments in this emphasis, nor will it affect any affiliated departments or programs. It will have no effect on existing administrative structures or in existing faculty or staff. No new facilities or equipment will be required.

**Finances:** No new costs or savings are anticipated from this change.

iv. **Department Name Change: the Department of Instructional Technology to the Department of Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences**

**Request:** Utah State University requests approval to rename the Department of Instructional Technology to the Department of Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences. The new name would take effect 1 January 2009.

**Need:** The rationale for renaming the department includes the following:

- To reflect the current faculty’s research focus and desires. Currently, many faculty members in the department engage in Learning Science research. At a vote at a faculty meeting in March, 2008, only one faculty member voted against the proposed name change.
- To stay current with national and international research and teaching trends. Many departments of Instructional and/or Educational Technology are renaming themselves to, or adding an emphasis in, Learning Sciences. Nationally, the American Education Research Association Conference has a Learning Sciences special interest group. Internationally, there is both *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, as well as a bi-annual Internal Conference of The Learning Sciences.
- To advance interdisciplinary external funding proposals and research. Many funding agencies and foundations (e.g., National Science Foundation, Hewlett Foundation) have funding programs that specifically name and target Learning Sciences research. Several faculty members pursue these awards and would thereby benefit from the requested name change.
- To enhance the recruitment of high quality faculty. Many new, quality PhDs have been prepared within programs that are either named or contain a substantial Learning Science component. The requested name change would help ensure USU is considered in the job search of these candidates.
- To enhance the recruitment of high quality students.

**Institutional Impact:** The proposed restructuring will not affect current enrollments in the department’s program. As noted above, it is expected to increase the quantity of students applying. No new physical facilities or equipment will be required. The number of faculty and professional staff will not change.

**Finances:** No new costs or savings are anticipated from this change.