Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services, October 7, 2010

Utah State University

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Request to Rename the Health Education Specialist Degree
Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Utah State University

Section I: The Action

The Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Utah State University requests approval to rename the Bachelor of Science (BS) “Health Education Specialist” degree. The proposed new name for the BS degree will be “Health Education and Promotion”. The current emphases associated with the degree will remain the same and will retain their current titles. The requirements of the degree will remain the same thereby requiring no new faculty, courses or other resources.

Section II: Need

Health education is defined as “any combination of planned learning experiences based on sound theories that provide individuals, groups, and communities the opportunity to acquire information and the skills to make quality health decisions” (Joint Committee, 1991). Health promotion is defined as “any planned combination of educational, political, environmental, regulatory, or organizational mechanisms that support actions and conditions of living conducive to health of individuals, groups, and communities” (Joint Committee, 1999). This name change request is being generated because the health education profession has undergone a significant period of growth in the past decades and has evolved to a point where professionals are heavily involved in both health promotional and health educational pursuits. Both terms are now in wide use in university and professional settings and have become the recognized descriptive terms for the name of the profession.

Section III: Institutional Impact

There will be no institutional, college or departmental impact. All required courses are currently taught by existing faculty in HPER and the EEJ CEHS.

Section IV: Finances

The HPER department will be able to continue to offer the renamed degree with no additional resources. All required courses are currently offered and taught by existing faculty in HPER. Required courses outside of HPER are currently offered at USU.