



**Department of Curriculum,
Culture, and Educational Inquiry**

Education Building, Room 353
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991
Tel. 561.297.6594
Fax. 561.297.2925

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Graduate Programs Committee of Florida Atlantic University:

On behalf of my departmental colleagues, I present our proposal to change the designation of the doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). In the proposal document we provide a rationale for this change, which is based on a response to the altered nature and status of the Ed.D. degree, as well as a recognition of the strong research orientation of our current doctoral program.

As required by university policy, we have followed the correct procedures carefully throughout the approval process. We were guided by the information in Appendix A of the *Florida Atlantic University Graduate Programs Committee Guidelines, Policies and Procedures*, approved in December 2008. Section III.A.5 relates to a "Significant Change to an Existing Degree Program/Track," with regard to the "Orientation or emphasis of a program's curriculum." The changes in our program, over the years, have been to deepen the curriculum and raise the rigor in order to emphasize research ever more strongly. We now have a program that is worthy of a Ph.D. designation.

Before the Fall 2010 semester began, we sought advice from university administrators about the best way to proceed, and later we submitted a draft of the proposal for review by the Graduate Programs Committee in the College of Education. When the committee offered feedback, we responded to its suggestions by revising the document and re-submitting it. After that, I conferred with colleagues who had expressed concerns about the original proposal. For example, there were conversations with the Department Chair and a faculty member in another department about the Area of Specialization electives in our program. We discussed how we might designate a pool of courses in their department and mine that would be open to doctoral students in both of our departments, and perhaps to even pursue the idea of a Minor area in another discipline. We also determined how to lessen any impact on enrollment and course management as a result of requiring our doctoral students to take an advanced research course in their department. The talks were collegial and forward-looking.

The Graduate Programs Committee then re-considered the proposal on November 23, 2010. After discussion in the Curriculum Subcommittee and the full committee, a vote was taken regarding the merits of the proposal. The final tally was 10 departmental representatives in favor of our proposal, and 1 opposed.

Given that positive result, we now bring the proposal to the university GPC. We think it is in the best interests of our students and the university to change the designation of this doctoral degree program to a Ph.D., and we ask for your approval. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours,

H. James McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry