



DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM, CULTURE AND
EDUCATIONAL INQUIRY

College of Education

777 Glades Road

Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991

tel: 561.297.6594

fax: 561.297.2925

www.coe.fau.edu/ccei

January 22, 2016

University Undergraduate Programs Committee
Florida Atlantic University

Dear Chair and UUPC Members,

I am writing to the University Undergraduate Programs Committee (UUPC) as Professor and Chair of the Department of Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry (CCEI), with the unanimous consent of the eleven full-time faculty in my unit. The purpose of this letter is to draw the committee's attention to numerous procedural concerns with the Elementary Education program change proposal advanced by the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL). We have been advised that the UUPC is scheduled to review this proposal at its January 29th meeting.

Our primary concern with the proposed program change centers on the issue of faculty governance. The Elementary Education program change proposal follows from a state funded grant received by two College of Education administrators, the Chair of the DTL and the Dean of Education. Even though our department delivers five core courses in the program, we were not consulted on the merit of the grant application, or its corresponding commitment to program change, prior to its submission.

When, as department chair, I raised procedural questions with the Dean, I was advised that a check with the Associate Provost was required to determine whether standard FAU program approval protocols were applicable in this case. The Associate Provost confirmed that normal procedural practices ensuring faculty oversight were in fact required. Relatedly, some members of our department have expressed concern with the potential tension between the Dean's responsibility to oversee procedural processes in the college, and her role as co-investigator on the EXCEED grant with its explicit commitment to program change.

The absence of appropriate consultation with faculty and the lack of college consensus were manifested in the UPC vote now before the UUPC. As a department, we appealed to UPC Chair, Dr. Peggy Goldstein, to delay any vote based on the lack of consensus surrounding the proposed program change. Regardless, the UPC first met on January 6th with members instructed to consult their department. An electronic vote was called on January 8th (only two days later) with the results announced the morning of January 11th. There were 2 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 2 abstentions. One of the two abstentions, Dr. Cristobal Salinas, representing the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, indicated publicly and in-writing the reason for his abstention was the lack of time provided between January 6th and January 8th to properly consult his department.

At this same meeting, there was also a claim by the DTL UPC committee member that, as CCEI Chair, I was widely consulted on the proposal. I can state categorically that this claim is false, since consultation involves dialogue and negotiation. No such interaction took place at any stage during this process. I have written the Dean requesting a formal retraction from Dr. Fritzer regarding the stated claim of "consultation".

After the UPC vote our department made a number of appeals to the UPC Chair, and to the Dean to afford additional time for discussion on the proposal. These appeals were rejected and we were notified by the UPC Chair the proposal would proceed to the UUPC. State inspectors related to the EXCEED grant visit DTL the week of February 15th and the co-investigators apparently wish to advise them that program changes have been completed. Unfortunately, the appropriate consultation and negotiation practices required to protect faculty governance are being circumvented to satisfy externally imposed deadlines.

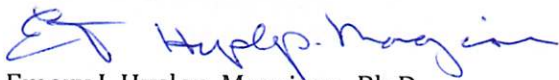
The current proposal before the UUPC includes the removal of EDF 3610 (Education in a Multicultural Society) from the Elementary Education program core. The removal of this course from the program contravenes FAU's strategic plan by undermining our commitment to diversity. To highlight that concern, we are sharing with the UUPC a portfolio that includes letters of support from various Elementary Education stakeholders.

As a department, we remain expressly committed to achieving an Elementary Education program change proposal that satisfies grant requirements, respects faculty governance, achieves a college consensus, and protects the substantive interests of all stakeholders in the university and in the community. The following three options achieve that objective:

- 1) Rather than eliminating the upper level multicultural and technology courses from the program core, these courses become 2 credit courses and the elective portion is deleted from the proposal;
- 2) Reinstate EDF 3610 as a required 3 credit course with curriculum enhancement that addresses the intersection of multicultural education and STEM;
- 3) Reinstate EDF 3610 as a required 3 credit course. Offer students seven credits of restricted electives from which they could select the new content courses (MAE 4310; SCE 4113; SSE 4312) based on advisor recommendation. Those students who are able to pass the test without these courses could select other courses (EME 4810, EDG 4419) as electives.

We respectfully request the UUPC return the proposal to the college to encourage further discussion on these, or other possible options. Our department remains confident that a college consensus is possible in this matter. I wish to thank the UUPC for its consideration of my comments, and I would be pleased to answer any related questions on the issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Emery J. Hyslop-Margison, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair

Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry

Florida Atlantic University