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The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

November 21, 2008

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2008-2009
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Graduate School - Dr. Malcolm R. Adams
Undergraduate Student Representative – Ms. Jamie Beggerly
Graduate Student Representative – Ms. Amrita Veliyath

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to terminate the major in Reading Education under the Doctor of Education degree (Ed.D.) will be an agenda item for the December 5, 2008, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely, David Shipley

David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Professor Jere W. Morehead

Request for the Termination of the Doctor of Education Graduate Degree (Ed. D)

I. Basic Information

1. Institution: University of Georgia Date: February 1, 2008

2. School/College: College of Education

3. Language & Literacy Education, Reading Education Program

4: Program Degree: Doctor of Education Graduate Degree (Ed. D)

Major: Reading Education

5. Termination

6. Last date students will be admitted to the program: April 30, 2008

7. Last date students will graduate from the program: May 2012

8. Abstract of the Deactivated Program

The Ed. D. is classified as a professional degree that provides advanced professional training for careers in teaching, administration, and other educational services. A minimum of 80 semester hours of course work beyond the baccalaureate degree, excluding dissertation credit, is required for the Ed. D.The Ed. D. is a degree grounded primarily in the utilization of scholarship to improve educational practice and thus it prepares an individual to become a leader among those engaged in such endeavors (e.g., a language arts director in a school district or a faculty member in a teaching oriented college). The completion of the degree requires a doctoral dissertation, similar to a Ph. D., but the topics investigated and the research methods employed frequently reflect an applied practice emphasis. Completing all requirements for the Ed. D. program typically requires four to five years. Lowered enrollment and completion rates, plus a lack of clear distinctions between Ed. D and Ph. D. programs have prompted our decision to seek termination of the program. Current Ed. D. students will continue to be supported in their degree pursuits.

9. Signatures

Mark Faust	Arthur Horne	Maureen Grasso
Department Head	Interim Dean of College	Dean of Graduate School

Chair, College of Education Curriculum Committee

II. Conditions for Terminating Program

1. Upon the recommendation of the Program Review Committee, Reading Education faculty looked at the admission and graduation statistics for the Reading Education Ed. D. program from Fall semester 2002 until the present, contrasting that data against the same for our Ph. D. program. Over that period, we admitted 7 Ed. D. students and 32 Ph. D. students. During that same period, 4 Ed. D. students requested that their degree programs be changed to Ph. D. while no Ph. D. students requested to be switched to the Ed. D. program. Based upon these numbers and a perception by the Reading Education faculty that the differences between the Ed. D. and Ph. D. programs were minimal at best, the full program faculty (n = 6) voted unanimously to terminate the program.

2. Students currently enrolled in the Ed. D. program will be given continued support to complete their degrees. We project May 2012 as the last date for graduating students with Ed.D. degrees, although students with extenuating circumstances could be supported beyond this date if their case merited such action. All Ed. D. students will also be given the option of applying for the Ph. D. program as outlined in our doctoral handbook.

3. Because (1) the Ed. D program has few students, (2) all Reading Education tenured and tenure track faculty work with Ph. D. students, and (3) there are minimal differences between the Ed.D. & Ph. D. programs, we anticipate minimum negative impact. However, we will continue to actively support current Ed. D. students through coursework and advisement.

4. Over the last three academic years, the former Reading Education and Language Education departments have been in the process of merging into the Language and Literacy Education department. As such, we have developed a departmental Ph. D. for the five programs housed in the unit. At that point, the former Reading Education and Language Education Ph. D. degrees were terminated. The department views the focus on a single doctoral degree to be a unifying strength and should enhance rather than place burdens on other programs.

5. We are requesting termination and have no plans for reactivation.