October 8, 2014

TO: Sara Mangelsdorf, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

FROM: Julie Underwood, Dean, School of Education

RE: Continuation of Suspension of Undergraduate degree in Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education

In 2012, the School of Education began the process of changing its secondary teacher education program from an undergraduate program to a master’s degree program. The new program has received the required approvals from various committees and agencies and will launch in the summer of 2015. This program results in an MS in Curriculum and Instruction, with four named options: Secondary English Education, Secondary Mathematics Education, Secondary Science Education, and Secondary Social Studies Education.

As part of the program change process, we requested and received approval to suspend the following School of Education secondary education majors, effective the current academic year, 2011: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Natural Science, Physics, Political Science, Social Studies, and Sociology. The final round of applications resulted in the admission of the last class, who began their professional sequence in Fall 2013.

At this time, we would normally ask to discontinue the undergraduate program. However, because circumstances of teacher preparation and teaching have changed, we request that we be allowed to continue to suspend admissions to the majors listed above for the Bachelor of Secondary Education for another 3 years. When this proposal was submitted and approved, teaching was considered a desirable profession, and appropriately training teachers before they began their teaching was essential. In the past few years, the attack on public schools, and in particular teachers, has resulted in fewer people expressing interest in becoming a teacher. Furthermore, the state has created two pathways to teaching that do not require the completion of a teacher training program. One of these pathways does not require applicants to pass the expensive battery of assessments that are required for traditionally and alternatively trained license applicants. As a result, it is unclear what interest there will be in this new program. The revenue aspects of this program are an experimental arrangement that result in the program needing to garner sufficient enrollments to meet budgetary obligations. If the changes in the climate of the state have affected interest in teacher education and teaching, it is possible that it will be challenging to get those enrollments.
We will be happy to provide further information at your request. Please contact Professor Alan Lockwood, Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

xc: Alan Lockwood, Professor, Curriculum and Instruction  
Beth Graue, Chair, Curriculum and Instruction  
David Rosenthal, Associate Dean Academic and International Initiatives, School of Education  
Jeff Hamm, Associate Dean, Student Services, School of Education  
Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell, Associate Dean, Teacher Education, School of Education  
Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost, Director of Academic Planning and Institutional Research