

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Moderate Degree Change: Master of Education (M.Ed.) in School Psychology to Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) in School Psychology

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the College of Education to change the title of its existing Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree in School Psychology to the Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in School Psychology, effective immediately. This is a change in degree title only. The M.Ed. in School Psychology will no longer be available to incoming students. Students currently in the program may elect to graduate with the new Ed.S. in School Psychology or with the original M.Ed. in School Psychology. The degree program will remain on its regular review cycle and will be incorporated into the next regularly scheduled College of Education review.

BACKGROUND

In April, 2011, the Graduate School received a Moderate Degree Change proposal from the graduate faculty in the College of Education School Psychology program requesting authority to change the title of its existing Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree in School Psychology to an Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in School Psychology

The new Ed.S. designation will properly recognize students for the work they have done as part of their degree program. It will also allow graduates to obtain the appropriate level of employment and compensation upon degree completion. Ed.S. programs typically require three years of full-time study, placing them between the typical requirements for master's and doctoral programs in terms of length and credit requirements. At 124 quarter credits, the current M.Ed. program far exceeds the minimum requirements for a master's degree, and its requirements are commensurate with national standards for an Ed.S. The National Association of School Psychologists recognizes this by classifying the College of Education's current M.Ed. in School Psychology as a specialist-level program.

In April, 2011, the Graduate School appointed two reviewers to evaluate the Moderate Degree Change proposal. The reviewers both supported approval of the Ed.S. in School Psychology designation as a replacement for the existing M.Ed. in School Psychology.

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The Graduate School Council met on June 2, 2011, to discuss the Ed.S. proposal. The Council recommended that the Moderate Degree Change proposal be forwarded to the Higher Education Coordinating (HEC) Board for review and approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

On September 6, 2011, the HEC Board Education Committee discussed the Moderate Degree Change proposal, which was then considered by the full Higher Education Coordinating Board on September 29, 2011. The Board approved the proposal by the College of Education at the University of Washington to offer the Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in School Psychology.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Education, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents' action on the Educational Specialist degree.