

MEMORANDUM

CODE: AA-2006-37

To: CSU Deans of Education

Date: September 8, 2006

From: Keith Boyum
Associate Vice Chancellor
Academic Affairs

Marshelle Thobaben
Chair
Academic Senate CSU

**Subject: Introduction to Education Course Descriptor
Systemwide Lower-Division Transfer Patterns (LDTPs)
Due September 22, 2006**

We are writing to ask for your assistance in the identification of a teacher education faculty member from your campus to assist with the development of an *Introduction to Education* course descriptor that will be part of the statewide agreed to transfer pattern for elementary teacher candidates. This activity is part of a larger statewide effort, the Lower Division Transfer by Major Project (LDTP), which has been underway in 45 major/discipline/program areas for the last two years.

At its July 2004 meeting, the CSU Board of Trustees modified Title 5 to encourage community college students who wish eventually to transfer to the CSU to choose efficient patterns of classes and avoid the common pattern of accumulating units well beyond those students need in order to accomplish their educational goals. As a result of this action, the LDTP was launched to identify patterns of lower division coursework to be taken in the community college so that students who take the recommended path may be given priority admission status when they transfer to a CSU campus.

LDTP Process

To begin the project, faculty members from each CSU campus came together by major/discipline /program to identify 45 or more semester units (68 quarter units) of lower-division courses that would satisfy graduation requirements for that major at all CSU campuses. The typical pattern begins with the completion of appropriate lower-division general education course work and continues with six or more units of designated lower-division course work that will be accepted toward graduation unit requirements at all CSU campuses offering that major program. Up to 15 additional semester units -- for a total of 60 lower-division units -- that apply to the baccalaureate degree for that major at a particular CSU campus will subsequently be designated by discipline faculty at that campus. It is not required that 6 of the units be "major units" only that the 45 lower division units accepted reduce the number of units left to take for the degree. A program with no lower division requirements may agree on GE and 6 units of electives. In all instances, the resulting transfer course patterns are comparable to lower division course work taken by CSU native students.

The LDTP has been sponsored jointly by the Academic Senate CSU and the CSU Chancellor's Office and includes a process for coming to agreement on a transfer pattern for each major. Faculty representatives from twenty-six baccalaureate majors or program groups (initially) were asked to meet; each group included one representative from each CSU campus that has that particular major. Each group was responsible for defining for the CSU system the recommended lower division transfer pattern for that major/discipline.

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

Because faculty have primary responsibility for degree requirements and the curriculum, it is important that the faculty of each major/degree program select their representatives. For the LDTP, this was done by departments or programs through their usual governance or curricular processes. (Provosts and Campus Senate Executive Committees could agree on other appropriate processes on each campus where disciplines did not match department structures; it is vital that the faculty who have primary responsibility for the curriculum in each program be engaged in the project.)

Faculty representatives attended a series of statewide meetings of their discipline/major/program group and were empowered to join with their discipline/major/program counterparts from the other campuses in designating at least six units of lower-division course work that will count for the baccalaureate major at all CSU campuses. The work was completed over the course of two statewide meetings. Initial agreements developed at the first statewide meeting were taken back to campus program faculty for consultation; final agreement reached at the subsequent meeting required no further statewide or campus ratification. This process worked very well. Through a concerted, collaborative effort, CSU and Community College faculty have come to agreement on a common transfer curriculum for 45 disciplines thus far.

Status of Statewide Agreement for Subject Matter Preparation for Elementary Teachers

Campus representatives from subject matter preparation programs for elementary teachers met during the Fall of 2005, voted and agreed to 45 units that will be acceptable at any CSU campus for both integrated and non-integrated teacher education programs for elementary teachers. They also adopted course descriptors for the transferable units. The one course that has been agreed to but for which a descriptor has not yet been finalized is the *Introduction to Education* course that is to be articulated statewide and accepted as part of the 45-unit package.

Since the *Introduction to Education* course is included in subject matter preparation programs for elementary teachers and used as a pre-requisite for entry to teacher preparation programs, we are convening a joint group of teacher education and elementary subject matter faculty members to finalize this piece of the work. The elementary subject matter faculty group that was appointed to develop the current agreement will be reconvened and joined by a newly appointed group of teacher education faculty members for this purpose.

The Chancellor's Office will support travel costs for faculty to participate in a one-day meeting to finalize this course descriptor. Faculty selected by each campus will serve as delegates and will be asked to cast a vote at the end of the meeting. A simple majority vote of the combined group will be binding, and the course descriptor agreed to in this manner will be incorporated into the statewide agreement. You will be copied on all correspondence with the campus representatives.

Attached you will find a copy of the statewide agreement that was reached last year for integrated and non-integrated teacher education programs, including course descriptors for all but the *Introduction to Education* course. Second, we enclose a draft course descriptor that was developed by a small group of teacher education faculty in the Spring of 2006, which will serve as the starting point for the discussion in the larger, combined faculty group.

We hope that you will join us in encouraging these representatives to work with energy and good spirit in a process that we expect will serve the people of California well. Please send the name of the teacher education faculty member that will represent your campus with complete contact information to Mary Vixie Sandy at the Chancellor's Office (msandy@calstate.edu; 916/278-4178) **no later than September 22, 2006**. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Keith Boyum at (562) 951-4712 or Marshall Cates at (626) 792-9118.

Attachments (2)

cc: Academic Council
Chairs, CSU Campus Academic Senates