

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Doctor of Education at UW Tacoma

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 Education Program at the University of Washington - Tacoma to offer the Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) in Educational Leadership degree program, effective Summer Quarter 2013. This practice doctorate program will be supported by tuition and fees, and will not require additional state funds. The degree program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled for the 2018-2019 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

In November, 2011, the Graduate School received a full proposal from the graduate faculty in the UW Tacoma Education Program requesting authority to offer the Ed. D. in Educational Leadership degree program. Implementation is planned for Summer Quarter 2013. This two-year program anticipates enrolling a cohort of 30 students every three years, with all students in the cohort graduating at the end of the three-year program.

The Ed. D. in Educational Leadership is primarily designed to serve the south Puget Sound region, where many educators find themselves in administrative positions requiring not only teaching expertise, but leadership skills, policy knowledge, and the ability to affect positive organizational change. While these individuals are often experts in their professional disciplines, today's leaders are required to exhibit skill sets and knowledge that extend beyond the professional master's degree. These leaders must employ research to improve organizational outcomes, ensure quality teaching for diverse learners, effectively assess programs, and lead local and national accreditation and accountability processes. They must be effective political advocates as well as informed fiscal and human resource managers. The proposed Ed. D. program includes three non-transcript study options: P-12 Educational Leadership, Nursing Educational Leadership, and Higher Educational Leadership. Coursework includes leadership courses, specialization courses for the three study options, and courses in research and inquiry. During the second year of study, students will participate in a practicum for leadership development. In the final year of study, students will complete a year-long, field-based capstone project.

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In January, 2012, the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School appointed two reviewers to evaluate the Ed. D. in Educational Leadership proposal. Each reviewer identified items for faculty to address as they move to implement the degree program, including specific recommendations for the written proposal. The program provided detailed responses to each of the reviewer comments.

The Graduate School Council met on March 15, 2012, to discuss the degree proposal. The Council recommended that the program revise the written proposal to address each of the comments from the external reviewers in detail, after which the proposal should be forwarded on for final approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

The program presented the revised proposal to the Graduate School on April 9, 2012.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the UW Tacoma Chancellor, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation to approve the Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) in Educational Leadership.