



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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To: Dr. Rodney Piercey, Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Via: Dr. Bill Phillips, Dean, College of Education _____
From: Dr. Kim Naugle, Associate Dean, College of Education _____
Copies to: Faculty Senate
Council on Academic Affairs
Teacher Education Committee
College Curriculum Coordinating Committee

Re: Restructuring of the Special Education Department

The Special Education Department (SED) has requested to be divided into two departments and this was discussed with and approved by the former Interim provost, Dr. James Chapman. We are submitting this for review by the academic review process with the intent it go into effect with the start of the fall 2007 semester. The Special Education Department will remain the name of the first department and it will house all of the areas currently in this department except for the Interpreter Training program which will become its own separate department. The new department name for the Interpreter Training program would be the Department of American Sign Language and Interpreter Education. This division is completely amicable and supported by the faculty and staff of both programs and is being made to allow both programs to fit more effectively in the College administrative structure as well as to simplify numerous issues associated with such issues as grant administration and accreditation that are unique to these programs. This change in total including changing the current Area Coordinator for Interpreter Training to a Chairs position will be a **cost neutral process** since the current Area Coordinator already gets additional release time as a condition of the Kentucky Department of Education/Vocational Rehabilitation grant this area operates under and as the support services for these areas are already separated by program area.

The personnel portion of the budget will stay within the appropriate area of assignment and the non grant driven portion of the budget of the SED (M & O) will be divided between the two departments based on a percentage generated from the number of full time faculty positions in each area. Each Department will have its own chairs coming from currently in place positions and the administrative assistants and other assistants in the department currently assigned to each area will remain with that unit/department. Office space will remain as currently allocated and the two departments, along with the rest of the departments in the College, will share major item expenses when it is in the best interest of the departments and the College as a whole.

Should questions arise, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

PROPOSAL

The Eastern Kentucky University Interpreter Training Program currently under the Department of Special Education is proposing to become the Department of American Sign Language & Interpreter Education in the College of Education.

Background:

The state of Kentucky passed legislation (HB 322) in 1986 to establish an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) at an institute of higher education to offer a minimum of an associate degree in interpreting. The legislation also addresses the institution's responsibility of providing satellite training opportunities. Initial funding was provided by the Council on Postsecondary Education for a faculty position and a half-time secretary. EKU was selected by CPE and a two year associate degree ITP was established in the late 1980's. EKU remains the only program of its kind in the commonwealth and is unique in its function and scope of pre-service and in-service educational activities.

Growth and Scope:

In 1996 discussions were begun with the University of Louisville (UofL) to establish a permanent collaborative degree program housed on the UofL main campus. Concurrently a proposal was undertaken at EKU to move the associate degree to a baccalaureate degree in interpreting. The baccalaureate degree was established in 1998 at EKU, the Memorandum of Agreement with the UofL was also formally signed in 1998 and the EKU/UofL ITP began offering a baccalaureate degree in Louisville. The UofL program was initially funded in 1996 by a grant from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation until 2002 when EKU assumed primary funding responsibility for the program.

The EKU College of Education and ITP, in association with the Kentucky Department of Education, is in the process of further expanding the training capacity of the ITP by establishing a full collaborative baccalaureate degree program with Western Kentucky University as well as establishing a small Resource Center for interpreters in a community college in eastern Kentucky. Funding to support this endeavor was supplied by the Kentucky Department of Education and became available July 1, 2006.

Additional Outreach services for interpreters have been made possible through grants begun in 1994/1995 with the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. These Outreach activities do provide workshops across the state as well as training and support for P-12 educational interpreters, teachers and administrators. During the 2004 – 2005 academic years for example, twenty-eight workshops were sponsored or co-sponsored by the ITP Outreach coordinator with attendance topping the 1,000 participant mark.

The ITP offers an array of ASL level one through level six classes which are provided for all students under general education and can be taken for foreign language credit by any EKU or UofL student.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in partnership with the EKU ITP still provides significant funding for pre-service and in-service activities. OVR and the ITP in 1999 collaborated to establish the Center on Deafness. This has been a very successful entity of the ITP designed to provide grant writing, research, and collaborative training with local, state and national agencies in the field of deafness.

Future:

The ITP has expanded significantly since its inception in the late 1980's and has always enjoyed an excellent working relationship under the Department of Special Education (SED) within the College of Education. The growth of both SED and the ITP has expanded the total number of SED faculty and staff to approximately 50. The ITP now has 27 employees and with the anticipated addition of the western and eastern sites after July 1, 2006 this number is expected to grow to 36. Academic offerings, the management of current personnel and fiscal resources, and the management of anticipated resources have made the ITP function much like a Department over the past several years. The ITP has been and remains a very cost effective program. Current KDE and OVR grants have provided \$1,099,346 of external support during the 2005 – 2006 fiscal years and the proposed KDE initiative to establish a western program and an eastern service center will add an anticipated \$575,000 for a total of approximately of \$1,674,346 for 2006 – 2007. This amount does not count ITP state and Action Agenda funds. This number becomes more significant when the additional Center on Deafness grants are added in as well as the tuition which will be generated once the western and eastern programs are up and running. The western program will mirror the tuition generated to EKU by the UofL ITP which is approximately \$250,000 for fall and spring semesters and an addition \$50,000 during the summer semester.

The ITP has experienced continuity, growth and has developed a vision for the future to help make it one of the unique programs within the College of Education. Management of resources, funding and personnel as well as defining its role and function within the College of Education are important to the program as well as the Department of Special Education. Becoming a separate department will assist the SED Chair in managing a large Department of Special Education as well as define the parameters of the ITP and provide a departmental framework for its future endeavors.

The ITP faculty and staff along with the faculty and staff of the SED support this proposal and appreciate the consideration of this proposal.