From: Danny Mielke [mailto:dmielke@eou.edu]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Gess-Newsome, Julie <Julie.Gess-Newsome@osucascades.edu>
Subject: OSU Cascade Elementary Education Proposal

Dean Gess-Newsome,

From the perspective of Eastern Oregon University's College of Education, we have some concerns about potential unintended impact of adding another educator preparation program that would compete with six other existing public programs in the state. Based upon recent data, the existing public educator programs, in combination with the numerous other private colleges and universities, have capacity to absorb more potential teacher candidates. It is likely that adding a program in central Oregon will diffuse the existing population of future teachers from other institutions.

I didn't see data in your proposal to answer some questions: How many teaching positions in the region are going unfilled because there is not an undergraduate program there? OSU currently operates the MAT program in central Oregon to prepare initial teachers and so how much more need is identified beyond this current situation?

The areas of specialization you propose includes programs that all other Oregon public education colleges/schools currently offer. How are existing programs not meeting the regional need?

At this time, based upon existing capacity at other public campuses, is it a wise state investment to add another program that duplicates what is being done throughout the state? Granted, there is no physical public higher education program for educator preparation in central Oregon. Could the need be met by other programs placing a greater number of MAT and undergraduate student teachers in that region; by brokering undergraduate programs from EOU, SOU or WOU; or by forming other similar partnerships with private universities; or a combination of all these option?

As this proposal moves further along in the process, I suggest that more data is needed to be able to honestly judge whether this program is a sound investment for Oregon.

Sincerely, Danny Mielke
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Danny Ray Mielke; Ed.D., MPH, MCHES
Dean, Colleges of Business and Education
Eastern Promise Director
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From: Gess-Newsome, Julie
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 11:44 AM

To: 'Danny Mielke' <dmielke@eou.edu>
Subject: RE: OSU Cascade Elementary Education Proposal

Dean Mielke,

Thank you for providing feedback on the Elementary Education program being proposed by OSU-Cascades. Please let me address your concerns below:

- While we recognize the fact that there are a number of undergraduate elementary education programs across the state that may have capacity to take on additional teacher candidates, evidence suggests that unless a program is offered in Central Oregon, students simply will not attend college at all. That statement is also true of specialized skills in ESOL, STEM, and SPED.
- Since OSU-Cascades has a very success MAT program, collaborating with another institution in the state to deliver a program in Bend does not make sense.
- Of our last several elementary MAT cohorts, 75% of our teacher applicants reside in Central Oregon. The vast majority of the remaining applicants come from the Willamette Valley. Of our graduates, approximately 85% were employed in our participating school districts: Bend-La Pine, Redmond, Crook County, 509J (Jefferson), and Culver. In addition to our graduates, our local districts also hire graduating teacher candidates from other institutions. We anticipate the need for additional teachers will increase with the anticipated growth in Central Oregon over the coming years.
- Based on this analysis, we do not believe that offering an undergraduate elementary education degree at OSU-Cascades will have any significant impact on the enrollments at the other state institutions, but instead will provide access to an important degree in Central Oregon.
- The primary goal of our proposal is to diversifying our teacher workforce. While we recognize the strength of our MAT program, we have strong evidence from our community partners that the pathway from a BA to an MAT is simply too long to entice under-represented populations to follow that path. Our undergraduate proposal increases student access to licensure while building on teacher recruitment efforts already underway in Central Oregon.

We believe that our program serves an important role in Central Oregon by providing a streamlined pathway to elementary education licensure for underserved populations in Central Oregon and by providing an advanced preparation in three areas of local and national shortage: ESOL, STEM, and SPED.

Sincerely,
Julie Gess-Newsome

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