

ACTION ITEM #2

Discontinuation of Master of Arts in Education (English Language Learners) (Daniel J. Bernardo)

January 27, 2017

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Master of Arts in Education (English Language Learners)

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents approve discontinuing the Master of Arts in Education (English Language Learners) degree

SUBMITTED BY: Daniel J. Bernardo, Provost and Executive Vice President

**SUPPORTING
INFORMATION:**

The College of Education proposes to discontinue its Master of Arts in Education (English Language Learners) degree. The Department of Teaching and Learning offers a doctoral degree in Language, Literacy and Technology Education. However, the Literacy Program and the English Language Learners (ELL) Program have coexisted as two separate masters' programs. Each masters' program was designed and created before the influence of technology in educational settings. Now, both the language and literacy education courses are enhanced by technology. Additionally, there are several overlapping aspects in regard to theory, research, and teaching. As such, there are three core courses that are pertinent to both programs. Historically, students in each program often enroll in each other's courses; hence, discontinuing the separate degrees and merging the degree programs would better reflect these related and overlapping disciplines.

Additionally, WSU currently has a doctoral program under the name of Language, Literacy, and Technology. By using the same name for the master's degree, students can seamlessly move forward with their graduate studies.

Students currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Education (English Language Learners) program will be given the option to complete their program under the previous name or switch to the new degree titled "Master of Education (Language, Literacy and Technology Education)".

In September 2015, the faculty from the English Language Learners program and the Literacy program unanimously agreed to consolidate programs under one degree name.

Currently, the College of Education has 36 students enrolled in the English Language Learners (ELL) or Literacy Programs across the Master of Education and Master of Arts in Education programs. Not all of the students are currently enrolled and some have not been enrolled in some time. However, the College of Education will work to ensure that each student who needs to meet requirements for their degrees are able to do so. Each program's courses had been offered every year until we began to phase in a merged approach. With this degree merger, each course will continue to be offered but on a two-year rotation. All students will be able to complete their degrees within this proposed cycle.

In September 2016, the College of Education requested permission from the Provost's Office to discontinue the master's degree. The Provost's Office supported the request. This recommendation was then passed by the Faculty Senate on November 3, 2016.