

ACTION ITEM #1

Discontinuation of Master's and Doctoral Degrees (Erica Weintraub Austin)

May 6, 2016

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Counseling Psychology

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents approve discontinuing the Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Counseling Psychology within the College of Education

SUBMITTED BY: Erica Weintraub Austin, Interim Co-Provost

**SUPPORTING
INFORMATION:**

In November 2015, the Provost's Office received a request from the College of Education to discontinue the master's and doctoral degrees in Counseling Psychology. In accordance with the Faculty Manual, the Provost's Office notified the Senate Steering Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, Dean of the College of Education, and the faculty in the Counseling Psychology program that the Provost Office was considering elimination of the Counseling Psychology graduate degrees and invited comments. The Faculty Senate discussed the proposals and accepted feedback from affected faculty. A Special Senate Meeting was held on December 10, 2015 to discuss this matter. The Steering and Faculty Affairs Committees then compiled the comments from the discussion and submitted those to the Provost's Office.

The Counseling Psychology master's and doctoral degrees were proposed for elimination to allow for stronger investment focused on core programs and in diversity initiatives, particularly those that support students from underrepresented groups. These diversity initiatives are already underway in the college.

The College of Education developed a five-year teach-out plan that enables every student currently pursuing a graduate degree in Counseling Psychology to complete his/her studies and preserves accreditation for the program during this time period. The tenured and tenure-track faculty affected by this program elimination will continue

to hold tenure-line appointments or have voluntarily agreed to accept retirement packages.

Other affected units such as Career Services and Counseling and Psychological Services were consulted and indicated that they have other satisfactory means for securing the services and personnel they require to attend to the needs of the University community.

Following careful consideration of the rationale, feedback, and teach-out plan, the Interim Co-Provosts support the College of Education's request to discontinue the master's and doctoral degrees in Counseling Psychology.