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UNION INSTITUTE & UNIVERSITY

VERMONT ACADEMIC CENTER

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September 23, 2011

To: Janet Steward, Chair
Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators

Dear Janet,

I am writing to let you know of an imminent change in our M.Ed. licensure program offerings, and to describe how we will ensure that our current students will experience no adverse effects during this transition. As you may know, Union Institute & University (UI&U) has academic centers around the country. Until now, the University has offered the M.Ed. in three options: a fully online option, a low-residency program based in our Miami center, and the Vermont low-residency M.Ed. The Vermont program is the only one which offers educator licensure. This summer the UI&U administration decided to consolidate the programs into one online-only option, with the result that we will no longer prepare teachers and administrators for licensure in Vermont.

We will be discontinuing our approved graduate programs in the following endorsement areas: Art (K-12), Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, English (7-12), Mathematics (7-12), Social Studies (7-12), Middle Grades (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies), Special Educator (PK-21), School Counselor, and School Principal. **I want to emphasize that this will in no way affect our other approved programs that prepare teachers through the Vermont-based B.A. and Post-Baccalaureate options.**

As of July 2011, UI&U is no longer accepting new students into the Vermont M.Ed. A considerable amount of care has been taken in planning the teach-out process for students currently in the licensure track. All students have been informed of these changes and have been assured by the Provost that the University will continue to fully support their programs to completion, including all licensing requirements, on their original schedules. In addition, all current faculty and staff will remain in place and are continuing to work with their original

students. Other than the diminishing numbers, current licensure candidates will experience no change in the program or its requirements.

We currently have 22 students enrolled in the Vermont M.Ed. program (19 in licensure), and the last of them will finish in the summer of 2013. I have attached an outline of the calendar for the next two years, listing the number of students and graduates in each of the remaining terms.

As you also know, UI&U will be hosting a ROPA approval visit in January of 2012. Because of this new development, and the fact that some of our endorsements will no longer be active since our enrollment is frozen, we will not be requesting a full review of the M.Ed. licensure options. We would appreciate guidance from the VSPBE on what material would be appropriate to present to the team for a temporary extension, rather than renewal of, our graduate preparation programs. We will expect to provide a full update on changes that have been made in response to our 2004 ROPA report, and any other documentation necessary to support this transition.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and look forward to answering any questions you may have about the process.

Sincerely,

Heather McCollum
University Licensure Officer
Professor of Liberal Studies

cc: Richard Hansen, Provost

Enc: Schedule of finishing candidates (see below)

Below are the projected VT M.Ed. student teach out numbers per term based on the currently enrolled students:

Fall 2011 – 22 students

One-day thesis writing workshop, Sept. 10

End of term graduates: 6

NOTE: 3 students returning from LOA

Licensure candidates: 20

Winter 2012 – 19 students

Residency: Feb. 24-March 2

End of term graduates: 9

NOTE: 2 students returning from LOA

Licensure candidates: 17

Summer 2012 – 10 students

Residency: July 13-20

End of term graduates: 0

Licensure candidates: 8

Fall 2012 – 11 students

One-day thesis writing workshop in Sept.

End of term graduates: 5

NOTE: 1 student returning from LOA

Licensure candidates: 9

Winter 2013 – 6 students

Residency: Feb. 22-March 1 (final one-week residency)

End of term graduates: 5

Licensure candidates: 6

Summer 2013 – 1 student

One-day final thesis presentations and graduation in May or June (to be determined) for Winter 2013 (5) and Summer 2012 (1) students.

End of term graduate: 1

NOTE: This student is a school counselor candidate (48 credits required for licensure). She will have met her 2 summer residency requirements and therefore this term will be an independent study.