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DOC 2015-01 Change of department name from Department of Educational Leadership to Department of Educational Administration

Department of Educational Leadership, SEHS

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PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Change of department name from Department of Educational Leadership to Department of Educational Administration

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Educational Leadership, SEHS

DATE: April 15, 2015

ACTION: Legislative Authority

REFERENCE: DOC 2014-04, Actions pertaining to degree programs and academic departments

Background:

An ad hoc committee, primarily consisting of present faculty active in the Ph.D. program was formed in December 2013 to discuss the current Educational Leadership doctoral program. The discussion was in relation to a possible partnership with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and our Ph.D. program. At the meeting, information was shared concerning findings from a consultant report that addressed issues regarding the current Ph.D. program. This study occurred in spring 2013.

At the initial meeting of the ad hoc Ph.D. committee, held on December 11, 2013, a conversation ensued concerning the possibility of changing the name of the Department of Educational Leadership back to the former name, Department of Educational Administration. This discussion was held in conjunction with the idea of bringing the Educational Leadership doctoral program into the department. The majority of Department of Educational Leadership faculty were part of this committee. The discussion continued at a follow-up meeting of the ad hoc committee on January 27, 2014 where the idea was endorsed.

At the February 20, 2014 Department of Educational Leadership faculty meeting, the idea of a departmental name change was discussed with the recommendation that the faculty vote on this issue at the March 13, 2014 faculty meeting. The issue was discussed at the March 13 meeting; however, it was tabled for further discussion. It was suggested that a background paper be developed explaining the rationale for change. The rationale paper was developed, and shared with faculty explaining reasons for changing the name of the department at the April 10, 2014 faculty meeting. The group voted to approve a name change at that meeting.

Having received department faculty approval, both Dean Kelly and Associate Provost Vanderburgh were informed of the departmental proposal per university protocol.

Going further, per university procedure for renaming an academic department, comments of endorsement or objection and documentation of consultation with potentially affected departments or units was sought.

Rationale:

The rationale for a suggested name change focused on two primary areas. First, the idea was advanced that *administration* is broader and more encompassing than either *leadership* or *management*. Murray (2010) notes that although leadership and management go hand in hand, they are not the same thing. Instead, administration better describes the focus of our departmental efforts to educate our students. The term administration takes into account both leadership and management, and is thus a more inclusive term. Members of the department believe changing the name of the department to “Educational Administration” provides a better description of our department and the work that we do. Administration encompasses both leadership and management in school organizations; these two topics dominate the content of our courses.

A second consideration for the name change deals with other programs at the University of Dayton that include the use of the term “leadership.” Minimally these include:

- University of Dayton Center for Leadership
- Teacher Leader program in Teacher Education
- Supervisory Leadership Certificate Program University of Dayton.

Thus, renaming the department to Educational Administration as opposed to Educational Leadership provides a more distinctive academic identity within the University.

Conclusion:

The issue of a departmental name change surfaced because of discussions in an ad hoc committee regarding the Educational Leadership doctoral program and a potential partnership with BASA. We believe that from the perspectives of both contemporary professional practice and research, use of the term administration most appropriately captures the focus of the department. Our courses emphasize both leadership and management, thus, use of the more inclusive term, administration better describes our department.

APPROVALS:

Dean Kelly and Dr. Vanderburgh – Summer 2014

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, SEHS – 10/29/14

SEHS Congress – 11/7/14

On behalf of the full GLC, GLC Executive Committee – 2/13/15

CONSULTATION:

➤ *Lisa Beutel, Ph.D., Executive Director, Center for Leadership* (June 2, 2014)

“The name change is not a problem for us either. Best of luck to you.”

- **Connie Bowman, Ph.D., Chair, Teacher Education** (June 2, 2014)

“This name change does not present a problem for Teacher Education. I believe the new name is more reflective of your curriculum.”
- **John Leland, Ph.D., Director, UD Research Institute** (June 2, 2014)

“We would have no issues with your name change. Regards”
- **Mr. John Gentner, Director, MBA Program** (June 3, 2014)

“Thanks for the message and the chance to comment. I do not see any issues with the proposed name change from the perspective of the MBA program.”
- **Sharon Gratto, D.M.A., Professor & Chair, Dept. of Music** (June 5, 2014)

“This is to let you know that the Department of Music has no concerns about the change of name in the School of Education from the Department of Educational Leadership to the Department of Educational Administration. This change will not be a problem for our Music Education degree program or other degree programs in the Department.”
- **Grant Neeley, Ph.D., Director, Masters of Public Administration** (June 6, 2014)

“Our program has no problem with the name change.”
- **Molly Schaller, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Counselor Education** (June 10, 2014)

“We support the name change from Educational Leadership to Educational Administration. However, we do so with the understanding that our current Master's degree programs will remain in the department of origin.”
- **Paul Bobrowski, Ph.D., Dean, School of Business Administration** (July 1, 2014)

“The School of Business Administration Leadership Committee did meet and discussed your department name change. All of the SBA department chairs were present as well as the two associate deans. There are no objections to the proposed name change. Thank you for following up with me.”