



Date: June 30, 2017
To: Robert J. Marley, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
From: Stephen P. Roberts, Vice Provost and Dean, College of Arts, Sciences, and Business
Subject: Proposal to Establish a Department of Teacher Education and Certification

Goal: To establish a Department of Teacher Education and Certification within the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business. This department, led by a tenured department chair, would oversee the secondary and primary teacher education programs at S&T, including managing and hiring faculty; recruiting and advising students; and developing, scheduling, and teaching all EDUC courses. Faculty in this department would include the department chair, Dr. Michelle Schwartze (assistant teaching professor), the dozen part-time adjunct faculty teaching EDUC courses each year, and could include, in future, not only additional full-time teacher education faculty but also secondary appointments for tenure-track pedagogical specialists housed within other disciplinary departments (biology, mathematics, English, etc.).

Context: The Teacher Education Program at S&T is healthy and growing; there are currently 54 students enrolled in the secondary education certificate program and 26 student in the elementary education program (which has only existed since fall 2014). Organizationally, this program is housed in the Department of History and Political Science.

A Department of Teacher Education and Certification would not grant bachelor's degrees; at S&T, students major in particular disciplines but take teacher education courses that qualify them to become certified by Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Precedents exist for other non-degree granting departments on our campus. For example, Army ROTC (Aerospace Studies) and Air Force ROTC (Military Science) have department status and department chairs; they offer courses but do not grant degrees. And until 2012, S&T had a Department of Physical Education, led by a department chair, that offered courses but not degrees.

Justification: Establishing a Department of Teacher Education and Certification will serve two important purposes. First, it will dramatically increase S&T's ability to recruit a talented and experienced leader in teacher education/higher education who would not otherwise be tempted by a "director" position buried in the history department. This leader would serve as the chair of the Department of Teacher Education and Certification (reporting to the Dean of CASB), and would represent his or her faculty and students at the college and university level.

Second, establishing a Department of Teacher Education and Certification will raise the visibility of this valuable program to both prospective and current students. Increased visibility may lead to increased enrollment in the nine departments that offer degrees associated with teacher education (Biology, Chemistry, Economics, English, History, Mathematics, Multi-disciplinary Studies, Physics, and Psychology) and, potentially, increased retention rates among our students.

Resources: This new department requires no additional resources; TEP has its own administrative staff (2.00 FTE) and its own suite of offices. It has its own independent budget and does not share resources with the Department of History and Political Science. It already offers a wide array of Education classes, and has its own category in our course catalog. In other words, it already operates largely as its own department, but without the university imprimatur.

Timeline: CASB must initiate a search for the new leader of Teacher Education in Fall 2017. **A decision about the organizational structure of Teacher Education should be made by August 2017**, in order to facilitate an effective recruitment strategy that will result in seating a new leader by August 2018.