Status Report Review  
Planning and Review Committee 2005-06

I. Degree: B.S. in Early Childhood Education  
Program Director: Dr. Judy Herr  
PRC Status Report Liaison: Brian Finder  
Date of Last Review: December 5, 2003

II. Previous Review:

Issue(s) of Concern

1. There appears to be a high degree of dissatisfaction as well as low morale among students enrolled in the program.
2. A certain level of disconnect appears to exist between the students and the faculty with regard to the new program, its housing, curriculum and direction.
3. A significant amount of course overlap appeared to exist within the program.

Response Summary

PRC program objectives that have been met:

1. Improvements in students’ responses to survey questions were noted with regard to the program’s ability to successfully prepare students, the program’s objectives being communicated/met, students choosing the program if they could do it all over again, and the students’ confidence in teaching preschool, kindergarten and primary grades.
2. Modifications in the way the program is being managed appear to be a contributing factor in an overall improvement of student survey responses. These improvements include increased professional development of student teaching supervisors as well as Child and Family Study Center (CFSE) staff, filling positions in the Child and CFSE with qualified professionals who meet minimum state licensing requirements, and an increased level of learning-centered dialog between faculty and CFSE staff.
3. The newly revised program deleted courses which contributed to course overlap, as indicated by an improvement in student surveys.

III. Committee Findings:

In response to continuing student requests, the School of Education has received approval to introduce an early childhood/middle childhood license. There are continued student concerns regarding transition in the program to meet the new DPI requirements (in particular the portfolio requirements) which necessitate changes in advisement-based communication and support. In addition, there are continuing student complaints that the program currently emphasizes preschool to the detriment of the primary grades. Students have also requested more teaching experiences and expressed a variety of concerns regarding student teaching. The committee feels positive about the recent modifications to address these concerns as well as opportunities that have been made available, and is satisfied to recommend continuance of the program until its next review in AY 2010 - 2011.