

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of the Addition of a Special Education Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

Whereas, the College of Education and Human Services is proposing the addition of a Special Education Post-Baccalaureate Certificate; and

Whereas, the graduate programs in special education presents a challenge primarily because unless a potential student is someone absolutely fascinated with research, there is no incentive for the students to obtain a master's degree in special education; and

Whereas, the constituency for this degree is in-service teachers, and a master's degree in Special Education (SPED) is 30 credit hours, but in-service teachers only need between 12-24 credit hours to move up the pay scale and stay at their current job, which is also evident in the enrollment and retention data, since students tend to leave the master's program once they have obtained the needed credit hours; and

Whereas, the purpose of the certificate is to supplement the current master's degree program into a graduate certificate program, which would translate into an endorsement program from the Illinois State Board of Education and a 21-credit hour endorsement program would be marketable to our consumer base regionally (in-service teachers who want to add endorsements); and

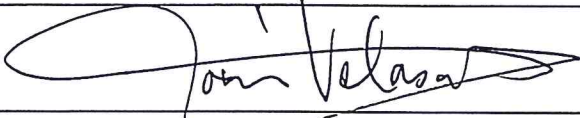
Whereas, it is anticipated there will be a combination of on-campus and online delivery of the coursework qualifying individuals for the LBS-1 endorsement, which is consistent with our current Master's degree program, and would include future goals of having off-campus cohorts once the endorsement program is established; and

Whereas, the current budget for the Department will cover the graduate certificate program and this will be ensured by offering courses in collaboration with existing SPED coursework and faculty lines already dedicated to the Department will be adequate for implementing the graduate certificate program; and

Whereas, minimal costs will be associated with editing the SPED website, changing recruitment materials, and making changes to the university catalog;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the RME for the **addition of a Special Education Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in the College of Education and Human Services.**

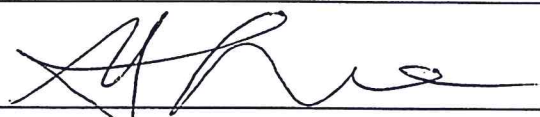
Date of Approval *September 7, 2017*



September 13, 2017

Chair, Graduate Council

Date



9/14/17

Dean, Graduate School

Date