

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, February 12, 2010

DISCUSSION ITEM C: Discussion Relating to Two Master's Degrees in Education

Staff Recommendation

For information only.

Background

The Commission for Higher Education currently has before it two master's degrees in education that are awaiting action: (1) the M.S. in Education proposed by Indiana University East for delivery to Lawrenceburg and (2) the M.A. in Secondary Education proposed by Ball State University for delivery statewide via distance education technology. The purpose of this agenda item is to allow for a discussion, with IU East and Ball State, of master's programs in general before the Commission might take action on these two specific programs.

All of the attention that has been directed toward teacher education programs in Indiana over the past year has raised a number of questions regarding the optimal preparation for entry-level teachers and the best professional development opportunities for currently employed teachers. With respect to the latter, what is the extent to which master's programs should incorporate topics such as:

- Advanced subject matter content for areas in which the teacher is teaching
- Learning assessment
- Diagnosing learning disabilities
- Cognitive development
- The science of learning
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Methods for undertaking applied research that can lead to better teaching and learning in the classroom
- Interpretation of research results
- Teaching and designing web-based courses

Are our current master's programs in education structured optimally for equipping our teachers to address the needs of today's children? For programs aimed at teachers who are already licensed, do they re-visit material already covered in the undergraduate teacher education curriculum or do they introduce new topics?

Supporting Document

None.