

AY20 Expedited Program Review – Optional Program Response to the Dean’s Findings Form

Date: February 27, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Tim Jester, Ed.D., Professor of Education, UAA—Anchorage Campus

Cc: John Petraitis, Ph.D., Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Title, College
Hsign-Wen Hu, Ed.D., Professor, UAA—UAA Campus
Claudia Dybdahl, Ph.D., Interim Director, UAA School of Education

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review: Optional Program Response to Dean’s
Recommendation

Program/s in this review: Teaching and Learning, M.Ed.

Program response to dean’s findings:

I appreciate Dean Petraitis’ recognition of the important role the M.Ed. Teaching and Learning program plays in providing graduate-level professional development for Alaska’s educators.

I am responding to his statement in the “Program Demand, Efficiency and Productivity” section that reads:

As to the program’s efficiency, it is, again hard to quantify because of the interdisciplinary nature of the program. Institutional research data suggest, however, that the core courses under the EDTL prefix do not cover their instructional costs...”

As noted in the program report—page 3, Internal Demand section—given the interdisciplinary nature of the MEd T/L program, there are only two courses that all students take: EDTL A651 and EDTL A698. In addition, there are only a few other courses with an EDTL prefix, which can be taken as electives for the Teaching and Learning Core or Professional Concentration. In the data table provided by the CAS Dean, the three EDTL courses selected are A651, A698, and A690. It should be noted that limiting this item to these three courses with the EDTL prefix does not account for the other 21-24 credits that students complete for the 30-credit degree.

As a 30-credit interdisciplinary graduate program with only six required credits with the EDTL prefix, the formula IR used to determine efficiency and productivity appears to not account for the majority of tuition revenue the program generates for UAA and the other two UA universities, UAS and UAF. It is common for students in this program to take courses from programs across UAA, UAF and UAS to best meet professional interests and needs. Although these tuition dollars do not go directly to cover the cost of the one faculty member assigned to the M.Ed. Teaching and Learning program, they are providing financial support to the University of Alaska.

Furthermore, between 2016 and 2019—four academic years—62 students graduated from the program, which is an average of 15.5 students per year. During that time, tuition for graduate credits was roughly \$500 per credit. Therefore, this means that the 30-credit program generated an average of \$232,500 of tuition per year during this four year period. With only one faculty assigned to the program for a part of

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his workload, it can be assumed that the instructional costs of this program should have been more than covered with \$232,500 tuition revenue per year.

In conclusion, it is known that many students want interdisciplinary programs. However, most of UAA’s data points related to productivity and efficiency are program/prefix specific. Therefore, productivity for interdisciplinary program—like this one—are underestimated.