



David H. Monk, Dean  
College of Education  
The Pennsylvania State University  
275 Chambers Building  
University Park, PA 16802-3206

814-865-2526  
Fax: 814-865-0555  
E-mail: dhm6@psu.edu  
www.ed.psu.edu

**Date:** January 27, 2011  
**To:** Members of the College of Education  
**From:** David H. Monk  
**Re.:** Progress Report #3

I cover two topics in this progress report: (1) where we are in the selection of a name for the new department; and (2) the interface between the College Student Affairs master's degree and the master's degree in Higher Education.

### **(1) Selection of a Name for the New Department**

We have been engaged in a name selection process that has involved consultation with faculty members within ESPSE and CECPR as well as faculty members throughout the College thanks to the assistance of the Faculty Council. The appendix to this memorandum includes the report I received from the Merger Committee along with a cover note from Skip Niles, the chair of the Merger Committee where he describes the process the committee employed.

I have since begun the consultation process and received feedback indicating that the term "psychological sciences" while attractive in many ways would be problematic for the larger University as it would suggest that the College of Education was laying claim to all of the psychological sciences. I also received feedback indicating that the use of the term "human services" in the title would be problematic given the extensive involvement of the College of Health and Human Development in this arena. In addition, I was advised that having the word "Education" or "Educational" as the initial word in the title would be desirable and that a shorter title is preferable to a longer title.

In light of this feedback, we will be focusing the next round of feedback (which will involve contacting the relevant associate deans at University Park and their counterparts on the Campuses as well as the relevant departments) on the name:

*Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education*

Many thanks for the efforts to date that have gone into this selection process. I am cautiously optimistic that the proposed name will prove to be acceptable to the University.

## **(2) Interface Between College Student Affairs and Higher Education**

As part of our review of the interface between the Center for the Study of Higher Education/Higher Education graduate program and the larger Education Policy Studies Department, we will be considering whether it would make sense to integrate the two master's degree programs we operate in this area of the College. We currently operate separate master's degree programs in College Student Affairs and Higher Education, and an important question is whether we can deliver a high quality program in a more efficient fashion to students interested in studying student affairs and higher education by offering a single, integrated program with identifiable emphasis areas. We will also be studying the potential for expanding the master's degree in Higher Education to include an on-line option. This exploration will not affect incoming students, as we will be admitting another cohort of students into the existing two master's degree programs. The goal will be to complete the exploration in time to make any necessary changes before it becomes time to admit future cohorts of students. I will be consulting with the relevant faculty members to establish a study/review process.

### **Appendix**

#### **Note from Spencer Niles, chair of the Merger Committee (January 23, 2011)**

Dear David—As you know, my colleagues on the Merger Committee (Jacqueline Edmondson, Brandon Hunt, Stephanie Knight, and David McNaughton) have been addressing our charge as it relates to identifying a name for our new department. We met initially to develop a plan for addressing this charge. At that meeting we each agreed to encourage our respective departmental colleagues to share any names they thought were appropriate. At a subsequent meeting, we brainstormed possible names and included those that emerged from our initial informal consultation with our departmental colleagues. From that meeting, we created an Angel-based site for faculty and staff to provide comments related to the names under consideration. That led to our developing a smaller list of names based on the comments provided to us. This smaller list was then presented to faculty and staff in CECPRS and ESPSE via SurveyMonkey, which provided the opportunity for each faculty member and staff assistant to identify their two preferred options. The College community was also provided with the opportunity for comment on the shorter list of names via an e-mail posted on the College listserv. Several members of the Merger Committee also attended the Faculty Council meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20th in order to receive feedback from council members. At the Merger Committee's most recent meeting (1/21), we identified strengths and weaknesses for each name. Those comments identifying strengths/weaknesses are pasted below. The comments provided to us from each stage of the consultation process are also available.

At this point, the Merger Committee awaits your direction relative to next steps. One suggestion from the committee is for Jackie to solicit consultative feedback from her Associate Dean colleagues from across the University.

## **Strengths and Weaknesses for Possible Departmental Names**

1/23/11

### 1. Educational and Psychological Sciences (EPS)

Strengths: This name has support from a significant number of colleagues. It communicates that the department focuses on rigor as that relates to faculty activity. No program name is identified.

Weaknesses: From informal consultation, it seems that many faculty in CECPRS do not support the use of this name as they question whether it represents their areas of focus. There may be resistance in the external (to the College) consultative process (but very little emerged within the College).

### 2. Educational and Psychological Sciences and Human Services (EPSHS)

Strengths: This name has support from a number of colleagues. Some also view it as communicating that the department focuses on rigor. It is more inclusive than option #1. The reluctance noted relative to CECPRS faculty does not exist for this option.

Weaknesses: There may be resistance in the external (to the College) consultative process.

### 3. Counseling, Psychological Sciences, and Special Education

There was no clear support for this name, so we did not consider it further.

### 4. Counseling, Psychological Sciences, and Special Education

There was no clear support for this name, so we did not considerate further.

### 5. Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education (CEPSE)

Strengths: This name is a clear list of most of the department programs.

Weaknesses: It lists all department programs except Rehabilitation Services, which is the largest program relative to student enrollment in a departmental major.

### 6. Counseling, Educational Psychology, Special Education and Human Services (CEPSEHS)

Strengths: Lists all programs within the department.

Weaknesses: It is a long name. The inclusion of Human Services is not likely to be well received by the Human Development and Family Systems Department.

An alternative that the committee noted (but that wasn't vetted with faculty and staff) is: Counseling, Educational Psychology, Special Education, and Rehabilitation (CEPSER). It lists all department programs and avoids the use of "Human Services," but is still a long name.