Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE MASTER OF EDUCATION WITH A MAJOR IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY TO THE MASTER OF EDUCATION WITH A MAJOR IN LEARNING DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve a change to the name of the Master of Education with a major in Instructional Technology to the Master of Education with a major in Learning Design and Technology, effective fall term 2016.

Background

The existing name, created almost 50 years ago, no longer reflects the current program. Instructional Technology, with the acronym of IT, had a distinctive meaning in the 1960's when the program was founded. Today, when those in our field refer to IT, the general population automatically thinks Information Technology, a totally separate field from ours. Accordingly, the number of students selecting a graduate option in IT has consistently fallen over the past decade.

This request mirrors changes in the field of Instructional Technology. Learning Design and Technology is an interdisciplinary field that works to further scientific understanding of learning applications, particularly through the design, implementation, and evaluation of learning innovations, and the impact of instructional methodologies on the improvement of human and organizational performance. The proposed name for the program reflects (1) the names/titles of our peer and aspirational programs across the country, and (2) the name found to be most descriptive of what our graduates do in a poll conducted with students on campus during the Winter 2016 semester. The proposed name change will allow for more effective marketing of the program to increase enrollments.

Approvals

The name change has been approved by the faculty of the Instructional Technology program, the College of Education Faculty Assembly, the Dean of the College of Education, Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.