To: Dr. Michelle Brye, EDEL Chair
From: Dr. Lisa Kirtman, Dean, College of Education
Subject: MS Ed Tech PPR External Report
Date: March 6, 2025

Thank you for your time and effort in completing the PPR for your program. Program Performance Review is a valuable process to provide a better understanding of the program and an opportunity for continuous improvement. I would like to thank the members of external and internal PPR committees for their exhaustive work in identifying the program's strength and areas of possible growth.

In what follows, I will address the items listed in the MS Ed Tech PPR external report.

Thank you again and look forward to following up with you on this report.

External Review Team's Recommendations	Program Chair's Response	Dean's Response
1.Department/ Program Mission, Goals and Environment **Recommendations:** It is reasonable for program participants to see direct benefits from student fees. This topic will be addressed in more detail in subsequent sections of the report.	I agree that the program participants (Ed Tech) students see direct benefits from the online student fees. These fees should be shared with the Ed Tech faculty.	The fees are collected from all 100% online programs. The chair as the department lead should decide on the best ways to spend and use the money for the good of the entire program. A graduate committee made up of all faculty who can or potential can work in the 100% online program would be another way to address this question.
II. Department/Program Description and Analysis **Recommendations:** Continual review and updates are central to the continued implementation and success of educational technology graduate programs. The program faculty have demonstrated this capacity and should be supported in the need for continued improvement.	I agree with supporting Ed Tech faculty in support for continued improvement. Part of this work can be done doing work group time in faculty meetings and graduate faculty meetings.	The program faculty have been supported and when asked for additional funding, it has been granted. This recommendation needed specifics to be able to address the concerns.

III. Documentation of Student Academic Achievement and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes **Recommendations:** If 100% of students earned full points on the signature assignments but still reported feeling less strongly that the program provided opportunities to practice culturally and linguistically relevant teaching strategies through an anti-racist lens, then it may be worth revisiting these assignments. From everything I can see, the assignments do target these strategies, so perhaps just being more explicit, using common language/descriptions, and making connections would be helpful to improve student perception. It may be impactful to send alumni surveys to gain a better understanding of job placement and leadership roles held by program graduates. Given how many great things are known about alumni through informal means, it may be impactful to have concrete data to point to for internal program consideration and potentially for marketing purposes.	The Ed Tech faculty will continue to evaluate assignments and make sure they use explicit language/descriptions to help student understanding. Good idea to have an alumni survey to get data to consider when making program decisions.	The alumni survey is a great idea. This is also a great way to ensure they stay connected.
IV. Faculty **Recommendations:** Culturally relevant applications of course materials were noted as a challenge both in the faculty members' research and within student surveys. Given the feedback from students, the department should prioritize hiring someone who specializes in culturally relevant practices	I would very much like to hire a faculty member who specializes in culturally relevant practices in educational technology. I would also like to have administrative assistance to help the Ed tech program. Perhaps we can consider using online course fees to pay for this support.	I think hiring someone with the specialization is a great idea. In the short term, I think the faculty who teach in this area should participate in PD to help improve these areas. Maybe some of the online course fees could be used to support this work. There is no budget for an administrative assistant to help. The faculty can give admissions

within the educational technology space.

The review committee believes this program is under-resourced relative to the enrollment trends. More administrative support should be provided. | | and advising to the full-time staff advisor if the work is becoming overwhelming. |
| **V. Student Support and Advising**

Recommendations:
The present arrangement for Dr. Donovan's release should be evaluated. Relying on the award every year presents a challenge and potentially destabilizing factor if the award were not to be offered or if her application was denied. It would be wise to consider a more permanent solution for the program's advisor to have a stable arrangement for release time to perform this task. | I agree and would like to use online course fees to support Dr. Donovan's role as Ed Tech program advisor. | There is a full-time staff member who can take on more of the admissions and advising work to take off some of the burden. |
| **VI. Resources and Facilities**

Recommendations:
More clarity is needed on the utilization of online course fees. Additionally, a clear and reasonable plan for how these funds are used would be helpful. The review committees could not determine how these funds are allocated.

At the beginning of the fiscal year and/or within the budgeting process, the program/department should account for all software/platforms that faculty members need to achieve the intended student engagement in this fully online master's program. The program should provide all necessary tools for faculty. | I would be happy to share the online course fees budget with the ed tech faculty so they can suggest more effective ways of spending these resources.

I agree that the department should provide faculty the tools they need to provide effective online instruction. Again, perhaps online course fees can help support these efforts. | Please see response above regarding online course fees. |
| **VII. Long-term Plans** | I agree with adding a new Ed Tech faculty member, | See responses above |

Recommendations:	
The program is anticipating turnover in program faculty in the near medium term. The preparation for these changes is notable and worthy of continued attention. The program has been quite successful, and a continuation of success depends upon a thoughtful transition plan. Unfortunately, it is common in academe for programs to be dependent on specific individuals and historical memory. Incorporating plans to replace faculty or, minimally, not run at a staffing deficit is important. Adding an additional program faculty member in the near term would be prudent.

A consistent mechanism for administrative support for a program of this size is critical. The outside member of the review team notes that it would be common for a program of this size to have a combination of administrative staff (~ .33 FTE of a shared administrative assistant) and course reassignment (~ one course per year) as support for a program of this size. | especially, if we are looking to create a doctoral program in Ed Tech.

I would like to provide support for an administrative staff member to support Ed Tech by using online course fees. | |