

Cal State Fullerton

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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To: Dean Dr. Lisa Kirtman

From: Dr. Lissa Ramirez-Stapleton, MSHE Program Coordinator

Dr. Ioakim Boutakidis, Chair- Department of Educational Leadership

Subject: MSHE Chair's Response to COE Dean's Response dated March 14th, 2025

Dear Dean Kirtman,

We begin by thanking you for taking the time to read the PPR reports submitted thus far, including our response to the External Reviewer's report. Below you will find our responses to your specific feedback (when additional information was requested or a question posed) and we thank you for your support and acknowledgment in other instances when our responses satisfied the concerns of the external reviewers.

Our ultimate goal remains as it has been, to serve the needs of our students and to prepare them for careers in which they are able to competently put into practice just, equitable, and inclusive principles within the educational spaces in which they find themselves in.

Regarding the timeline for a systematic curriculum audit and the integration of so-called "third wave" student development theories into the coursework

As noted in our initial response to the External Reviewers' comments, program faculty support the expansion of Black and Indigenous "topics, histories, and scholars" into student's coursework and the current redevelopment of the core development course will be a significant step in that direction. Currently we project a Summer 2026 completion of this effort.

Regarding the timeline for the restructuring of the Maywood project

The Maywood project---long-regarded as a signature fieldwork activity for MSHE students---will come under the management of Cal State Los Angeles (a much more proximate campus to the Maywood community) going forward and will be reimagined to focus more on the development of relevant student skills aligned to MSHE program goals. Furthermore, additional fieldwork activities will be more closely scrutinized for compliance to UPS policies. We anticipate completion of this task by the Fall 2026 semester.

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Regarding communication of our student learning outcome (SLO) assessment activities, their purpose, and sharing of results

As noted in our initial response to the External Reviewers' comments, we acknowledge the necessity and value in a coordinated effort to bring students more fully into the assessment effort by communicating assessment activities and their purpose, as well as presenting results of our assessment efforts to students. The sharing of results is the easiest to accomplish as we can post the assessment reports on program webpages accessible to our students. Furthermore, communication of assessment activity and their purpose can be a shared responsibility between the program coordinator and department chair. Our goal is to have such a process in place by Spring 2026.

Regarding students not taking advantage of funding provided for conference attendance.

We agree with Dean Kirtman's recommendation to investigate why students are not taking advantage of funding provided for conference travel expenses. As was noted in our response to the External Reviewers' report, every year funds available for these purposes go unused, despite what appears to be student concerns regarding these expenses. We will redouble our efforts to promote these funding opportunities and also provide some mechanism by which we can survey students and ask them about what they perceive to be the barriers to securing campus funding for these activities.

We conclude by also noting the instances where Dean Kirtman identified our earlier responses and planned actions as satisfactory. These include 1) the restructuring of the Maywood fieldwork project and accompanying review of all required fieldwork activities for UPS compliance; 2) the acknowledgement of the 30 course unit limit for a masters program making the additional coursework not possible; 3) the difficulty in apprising part time faculty any earlier of their semester assignments; and 4) some apparent misunderstandings from the external review team as to the nature of the program and the intentional emphases that align with our mission and goals.

We thank you for your consideration towards evaluating our reports and responses. We look forward to discussing our program and any questions on our written response with you and the Provost in concluding MSHE's Program Performance Review.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ioakim Boutakidis, Chair- Department of Educational Leadership

Dr. Lissa Ramirez-Stapleton, Coordinator- MSHE

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