

To: Dean Dr. Lisa Kirtman

From: Dr. Kim Case, SPED Dept. Chair

Subject: MS SPED Chair's Response to COE Dean's Response dated March 17, 2025

Date: March 19, 2025

Thank you for taking the time to review our PPR reports and provide such thoughtful feedback. We appreciate your insights and the support you have extended in ensuring the continuous improvement of our MS SPED program. We would like to respond to your comments with a summary that addresses specific questions and recommendations.

Program Mission/Goals

We appreciate your support in strengthening the integration of Just, Equitable, and Inclusive Education (JEIE) in our program. In addition to addressing ableism, we will ensure that our coursework and professional development efforts explicitly consider other intersectional aspects, including race, socioeconomic status, and linguistic diversity. To support faculty, students, and community engagement, we will develop a structured communication plan that includes regular meetings, informational sessions, and digital content to disseminate program updates effectively.

Program Description & Analysis

We acknowledge the enrollment challenges. A faculty-wide discussion will be initiated to explore additional recruitment strategies beyond our traditional credential pipeline, with a focus on outreach to historically marginalized communities. Specific steps to increase enrollment will include targeted recruitment efforts, partnerships with local school districts, and enhanced social media presence.

Student Support & Advising

A centralized digital platform (Canvas community or a student portal) will be created and maintained by Grad Program Coordinator and SSP Advisor to streamline communication of resources, workshops, and career opportunities. Expanding career exploration workshops will be prioritized, incorporating guest speakers and alumni working in diverse fields such as policy, research, and advocacy. Additionally, we will encourage student attendance at relevant conferences and explore funding options to support their participation.

Resources & Facilities

We will collaborate with our new library liaison, Rachel Riter, to enhance student and faculty access to essential teaching and research materials. This partnership will include the development of curated resource collections and instructional workshops to maximize the library's support for our program.

Long-Term Plans

A strategic plan outlining measurable long-term objectives and short-term goals will be developed, with clear metrics for assessing program progress. This plan will incorporate interdisciplinary initiatives to align with emerging trends in special education. A detailed timeline for implementation will be created to ensure accountability and progress monitoring.

Website & Recruitment Enhancements

We will update our program webpage with new visual elements, interactive features, and accessible content, including captions for Dr. Jung's video. The site will prominently advertise the program's fully online format to attract a broader audience. A structured plan and timeline for these enhancements will be established.

Thank you for your continued support in strengthening the MS SPED program. I am looking forward to discussing our program and any questions on my written response with you and the provost.