



Item: AS: I-2

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**  
**Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL NAME CHANGES IN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

No action is necessary. This item is only informational.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In academic program reviews in the College of Education, the review team noted that the *Department of Teaching and Learning* and the *Department of Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry* share academic degree programs and teaching missions. Accordingly the review team suggested that the two departments be combined, noting that "such a union could streamline and enhance faculty workloads and research in both departments" and that the combined departments should be "renamed to better reflect the unified department's missions." The faculty members from the two departments have recently joined together under a single new unit that will be known as the *Department of Curriculum and Instruction*. This new name is consistent with teacher preparation departments throughout the nation and will better articulate the unit's function for marketing and recruitment purposes.

Additionally, the College of Education's *Department of Exceptional Student Education* currently serves as the home for research-based practices to attend to the changing societal needs of people with disabilities, their families, and the professional who work with them. In recent years, new degree programs that prepare students to teach individuals with learning and behavioral disabilities have been named "special education," which is also the name of comparable departments at both the University of Florida and Florida State University. With this in mind, the unit will be renamed the *Department of Special Education*.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

Effective immediately, with changes reflected in FAU's student information system in January 2022.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Materials and signage will be phased out with existing college and unit resources, and there will be opportunities for efficiencies in the case of the combined departments.

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**Supporting Documentation:** N/A

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