



DATE: October 18, 2010
TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Joseph Pika
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Director, Center for Secondary Teacher Education
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Director of Secondary Education Programs in CAS

RE: Secondary Special Education Dual Certification 4+1 Track

This letter expresses College of Arts and Sciences support for the proposed Secondary Special Education Dual Certification 4+1 track program. For the past four years, the CAS has explored ways to help meet the growing national need for specialists in working with exceptional children. After exploring several possibilities, we chose a 4+1 program that will enable students enrolled in secondary education programs to also pursue a second certification in special education. This will be possible by allowing graduate credits earned as an undergraduate to count towards both the B.A. and an M.Ed.

The secondary education coordinators have been consulted on this proposed program. CAS undergraduate teacher education majors, particularly those in the English and Social Studies education programs interested in working with students with disabilities, would find the 4 + 1 a viable option that will enhance their employment opportunities. Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics education majors may find it difficult to schedule additional coursework because of program requirements. Nonetheless, the coordinators of these programs agree that the 4+1 is a valuable option to provide for interested students.

The CAS recognizes that implementing this program will pose challenges, but we will work cooperatively in an effort to achieve this important goal that depends on cross-college collaboration.