UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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University Council

April 15, 2022

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2021-2022
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Rodney Mauricio (Sciences)
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Ecology – Amanda Rugenski
Education – David Jackson
Engineering – Kun Yao
Environment and Design – Ashley Steffens
Family and Consumer Sciences – Sheri Worthy
Forestry and Natural Resources – Joseph Dahlen
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Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon
Public and International Affairs – Leah Carmichael
Public Health – Allan Tate
Social Work – Harold Briggs
Veterinary Medicine – Shannon Hostetter
Graduate School – Wendy Ruona
Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu
Undergraduate Student Representative – Matthew Jue
Graduate Student Representative – Sarah Burns

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to change the name of the Department of Career and Information Studies to the Department of Workforce Education and Instructional Technology will be an agenda item for the April 22, 2022, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
        Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR ACADEMIC UNIT NAME CHANGE

Date: March 1, 2022

Department/Division: Career and Information Studies

School/College/Unit: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Proposed Effective Date: Immediately upon final approval

NAME CHANGE:

Current Name: Department of Career and Information Studies

Proposed Name: Department of Workforce Education and Instructional Technology

JUSTIFICATION:

The Department of Career and Information Studies formed in 2013, comprised of these two program areas: Workforce Education and Learning, Design, and Technology. At the time the department was formed, there was an initiative underway to move in the direction of information science. The name chosen for this new department reflected the goals and ambitions of that initiative. However, the outcomes of that initiative were not met and consequently the department was left with a name not representative of its mission. The phrase "Information Studies" is not a reflection in any meaningful sense of the work done in the department at this time. Also, the word "career" only partially addresses the breadth of work done by the Workforce Education faculty. When the department underwent a program review (PRAC) in 2015, one of the recommendations at that time was to change the name of the department to accurately reflect its goals, mission, and scholarship. This request finally fulfills that recommendation.

It is important to note that departmental faculty considered simply joining the two program names together into a single department name. Unfortunately, when so joined, the result is confusing. Consider the following two examples:

- Workforce Education and Learning, Design, and Technology

- Learning, Design, and Technology and Workforce Education

The placement of commas in these two examples present an ambiguous or misleading description of the department. The first example aligns "learning" with workforce education and

implies that design and technology are separate areas. In the second example, technology is aligned with workforce education and implies that learning and design are separate areas.

Although "learning, design, and technology" is a more accurate characterization of the work done by its program faculty, it is important to note that programs nationwide in the instructional technology field often have local names that reflect the values and philosophy of the specific faculty at that institution. The program of Learning, Design, and Technology was formerly known in the college as Instructional Technology. Instructional Technology faculty in 2009 chose to request the program's name be changed to Learning, Design, and Technology based on the faculty's scholarly activities and curriculum practices at that time. However, the term Instructional Technology remains widely recognized as the umbrella term for the field. Structurally, the department will continue to function exactly as it has in the past.

The issue of changing the department's name had been considered for many years, but the most serious effort began in 2019. The Covid pandemic interrupted these discussions until fall 2021. The department faculty met on November 12, 2021 to discuss the motion to change the name of the department to "Workforce Education and Instructional Technology." The vote was 11 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain. One faculty member was absent.

March 1, 2022

Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett
Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Mary Frances Early College of Education
The University of Georgia
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Neuharth-Pritchett:

Faculty members now assigned to the Department of Career and Information Studies are writing to request a change in the department name to reflect the current composition of the unit. This request is needed to more accurately reflect the teaching, research, and service missions of the department.

Attached you will find the necessary documentation responding to the Procedures for Changing Name of Majors, Departments, School/Colleges. This information includes a completed Attachment A. In addition to these forms, the faculty have also reviewed and responded to the evaluation criteria outlined in the Office of Curriculum Systems procedure. That information follows:

Name Consistent with the Administrative Structure of the University System and the University of Georgia. The proposed Department of Workforce Education and Instructional Technology name is consistent with the administrative structure of both the university system and the university. The proposed name does not conflict with any other unit within the university.

Representation of the Discipline Described. The proposed name provides a much clearer identification of the disciplines located within the unit than the current department name. The terms used are typical names used to identify these two areas of instruction and scholarship. At the time the department was formed in 2013, there was an initiative underway to move in the direction of information science. The name chosen for this new department reflected the goals and ambitions of that initiative. However, the outcomes of that initiative were not met and consequently the department was left with a name not representative of its mission. The phrase "Information Studies" is not a reflection in any meaningful sense of the work done in the department at this time. Also, the word "Career" only partially addresses the breadth of work done by the Workforce Education faculty. When the department underwent a program review (PRAC) in 2015, one of the recommendations at that time was to change the name of the department to accurately reflect its goals, mission, and scholarship. This request finally fulfills that recommendation.

It is important to note that departmental faculty considered simply joining the two program names together into a single department name. Unfortunately, when joined, the result is confusing. Consider the following two examples:

- Workforce Education and Learning, Design, and Technology
- Learning, Design, and Technology and Workforce Education

The placement of commas when the program names are joined present an ambiguous or misleading description of the department.

Although "learning, design, and technology" is a more accurate characterization of the work done by its program faculty, it is important to note that programs nationwide in the instructional technology field often have local names that reflect the values and philosophy of the specific faculty at that institution. The program of learning, design, and technology was formerly known in the college as instructional technology. Instructional technology faculty in 2009 chose to request the program's name be changed to learning, design, and technology based on the faculty's scholarly activities and curriculum practices at that time. However, the term *Instructional Technology* remains widely recognized as the umbrella term for the field.

Clear Communication about the Area of Study for those Outside of Academia. The proposed name clearly communicates the areas of study being represented. The components of the name would allow persons unfamiliar with higher education the ability to find faculty and programs of study within the program areas comprising the department. The program name *instructional technology* remains more recognizable to most of our constituents, such as schools, the state department, and the PSC.

Differentiation from Other Departments, Schools, or Colleges. The name Workforce Education and Instructional Technology is unique to the study in school and other learning/training contexts. While other departments in the university include the word "Technology," the modifying word "Instructional" clearly differentiates the faculty and the programs of study of degree seeking students. As noted above, instructional technology is a previous name for this program. And, interestingly, before the reorganization of the College of Education in 2004, instructional technology was the name of a separate department.

Proposed Prefixes and their Relationship to Name and Subject Matter. The current prefix for workforce education is WFED. The current prefix for learning, design, and technology is EDIT, where the "IT" stands for instructional technology. (The EDIT prefix was not changed after the program decided to change its name and degree programs to LDT.)

The following comprises the faculty with academic homes in the current Department of Career and Information Studies and will be included in the proposed Department of Workforce Education and Instructional Technology:
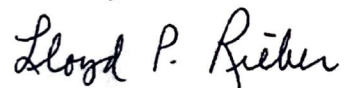
Elaine Adams, Associate Professor
Rob Branch, Professor
Ikseon Choi, Professor

Janette Hill, Professor
Roger Hill, Professor
Andrew Jackson, Assistant Professor
Nancy Knapp, Associate Professor
Theodore J. Kopcha, Associate Professor
In Heok Lee, Associate Professor
John Mativo, Professor
Lloyd Rieber, Professor
Jay Rojewski, Professor
Jill Stefaniak, Associate Professor
Gretchen Thomas, Lecturer

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please let me know if additional items are needed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lloyd P. Rieber

Lloyd P. Rieber, Ph.D.
Professor of Learning, Design, and Technology

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Change the name of the Department of Career and Information Studies to the Department of Workforce Education and Instructional Technology

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Career and Information Studies / Workforce Education and Instructional Technology

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2022

Department:
- Career and Information Studies Department Head, Dr. Lloyd Rieber, 3/1/22

School/College:
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 3/29/2022

Graduate School:
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 4/6/22