Loveland summary of history of TCE Graduate Program Review.

1. In June 2009, a review of the Teacher and Counselor Education (TCE) graduate program was carried out.

2. In Fall 2009, the program review was presented to the Graduate Council and accepted.

3. In Fall 2009, a meeting of the Graduate School Dean, Dean Stern, Sue-Ann Bottoms (TCE) and W. Loveland (representing the review team) was held with the Provost. The graduate program review was discussed. The Provost asked “Where is the Action Plan? The group replied “Whoops” and vowed to provide the action plan ASAP.

4. In Fall, 2010, the TCE action plan to address the review suggestions and comments was delivered to the Graduate School.

In the original graduate program review, the recommendation for TCE was to “Reduce or re-structure” the program. The central criticisms of the program were: (a) insufficient number of tenure track faculty for the size of the program (b) exceptional burden on the tenure track faculty that leads to a reduction in scholarly activity of the faculty and unusual tension or stress amongst the faculty (c) inappropriate use of fixed term faculty (65 fixed term instructors were being employed at < 0.5 FTE, thus not allowing benefits for these employees) (d) need for better student tracking and (e) lack of student financial support.

In the action plan, it was stated that the number of tenure track faculty was being increased from 7 to 9 to serve the needs of about 100 graduate students (with the number of such students staying approximately constant although two sub-programs were being eliminated/suspended). The use of fixed term instructors was defended as being the norm for the field in that there is a preference for using practitioners to teach single one term courses. The lack of student support was attributed to the strong component of distance or part-time students in the program who are not eligible for financial aid.

Concerns remain that the suggestions of the review team to have Ecampus support full time advisor(s) as they do for other programs were not implemented, nor were suggestions to combine the some of the fixed term appointments to create tenure track appointments and to simply reduce the total number of students in the program to improve sustainability.