

April 25, 2012

Willie Faye Garrett, Ph.D.
Chairperson, ASPPC
Faculty Senate
University of the District of Columbia
4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Dr. Garrett:

Based on consultations with the faculty and an examination of various reports and documents, the following provides a recommendation for the retention of the undergraduate teacher education programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

The current hold on students' admission should be lifted immediately for the three undergraduate programs in education: Elementary Education, Special Education, and Early Childhood Education. The programs should continue in the present state, with efforts for recruitment and strengthening the math general education requirement.

RATIONALE:

1. All programs are nationally and locally accredited by NAEYC, CEC, ACEI and the Office of State Superintendent of Education until 2017.
2. The University of the District of Columbia is the only public, land-grant institution of higher education providing teacher education programs to the residents of the District of Columbia at the undergraduate level, at an affordable cost. The cost allows the residents to advance in their careers at the post-secondary level, thus providing immediate entry into the workforce as teachers. (DC and surrounding states do not require a master's degree to be a teacher.)
3. The congressional Morrill Act of 1862 established land-grant institutions for the education of the working class; and UDC was designated as an Urban Land Grant Institution in the 1970s. The first institution to form the basis for this institution was the Myrtilla Miner Normal

School for Colored Girls. The University must continue its mission and obligation for undergraduate education in the preparation of teachers.

4. There is a great demand for the programs; there are approximately 300 students in education programs in the Community College that could be transferred to undergraduate teacher education programs.
5. National and local statistics indicate that there is a severe shortage of teachers.
6. There are no extra costs associated with continuing the three NCATE and SPA-accredited programs.
7. Department of Education faculty have received a 4-year, over ½ million dollar grant from the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education.
8. Department of Education faculty are highly qualified and have demonstrated their skills in preparing all students to be teachers of all children.

Sincerely,

Arlene King-Berry
Associate Professor & Senator

