

Teacher Education Chair's presentation regarding Dean's restructuring plan
Main points

- Teacher Education has a strong reputation as one of the premier teacher preparation programs in the State of Connecticut providing extensive and diverse field experiences with emphasis on social justice and interdisciplinary studies. The department has a good reputation regarding productive scholarship, leadership in education reform, extensive partnership with area school districts, and high level of job attainment by its graduates.
- Teacher Education has various concerns regarding dean's restructuring plan that involve both process and substance. Below are some of the highlights.

Process: (1) Teacher Education and its chair were left out of process of creating the plan while other SEPS department chairs were included; (2) There has been little discussion between the SEPS departments involved in the restructuring plan regarding this plan; (3) Most of the suggestions put forth by the Teacher Education faculty were not incorporated into the plan; (3) Most of the questions submitted in writing by the department were not answered in writing; (4) The restructuring plan update and rationale were only shared last week leaving little time for departmental discussions and response.

Substance: (1) Cutting the elementary education staff by half – currently the elementary division has 6 faculty members, the restructuring plan would divert 3 faculty members out of the elementary program. This will leave the program severely understaffed.

(2) Creating a department with no majors and no programs – proposed Secondary Education department will have no undergraduate majors and its graduate programs will be sent to other departments leaving the five secondary faculty members with about 7 sections to teach and forcing them to teach outside their department.

(3) Removing education foundation/education studies - The various graduate education programs are well integrated with the Education Foundation/Education Studies program providing the core courses. This plan will create many problems with the coherency of these programs.