

FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

January 26, 2006

SUBJECT: Authority for Approval and Termination of Advanced Non-Doctorate Degrees

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Grant authority to the University Boards of Trustees to approve and terminate advanced non-doctorate degrees subject to criteria previously adopted by the Board of Governors

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Advanced non-doctorate degrees exist between the master's and doctoral degrees in various disciplines. These include the Specialist degree, Engineer degree, and Advanced Master's degree. Although the awards are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, enrollment and degrees granted data is not required to be reported separate from other master's level programs. The most common of these degrees is the Education Specialist (Ed.S.), designed for individuals who desire to pursue leadership and/or management positions in schools or other education settings.

Depending on the state, the Education Specialist degree may also be required for certification in specialized non-instructional fields such as school psychology, speech and language pathology, guidance counseling, and adult education.

With the dissolution of the Board of Regents the Florida Legislature split degree approval authority between university boards of trustees and the State Board of Education. Section 1001.02(2)(w) FS grants authority for the approval of professional and doctoral programs to the State Board of Education, and Section 1001.74(7) FS, grants authority for the approval of bachelor's and master's programs to university boards of trustees. When the Florida Board of Governors was created, it assumed the responsibility for establishing criteria, policies, and procedures for new degree approval and, subsequently, adopted via resolution the shared model existent in Florida Statute. Neither statute identifies which entity has the authority to approve or terminate advanced non-doctorate programs leading to awards such as the Education Specialist degree.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Facilitators/Presenters:

Vice Chancellor R.E. LeMon