

Board of Governors

Development of 2004 Legislative Issues

January 22, 2004

Issue: Requirements for State-approved Teacher Education Programs

Issue Summary: Flexibility needs to be provided to the State University System Colleges of Education.

Background: Section 1004.04, F.S., provides for a high level of specificity with respect to the curriculum offered in state-approved teacher education programs. Educational leaders in the State University System and its colleges of education have expressed concerns that, by defining the core curriculum via the specification of content and course credit hours, the State has removed much of the universities' ability to be responsive to local needs for content, organization, and delivery of programs. They also have pointed out that such an approach runs contrary to the performance-based philosophy espoused by many educational leaders both in Florida and throughout the nation and, further, that it places colleges of education at a disadvantage in competing with alternate routes to teacher certification at a time when there are critical teacher shortages and unused capacity in SUS Colleges of Education. This view has also been expressed by those Independent Colleges and Universities (ICUF) institutions with state-approved teacher preparation programs. Florida is unique in that it has a single model for state-approved teacher preparation programs. Educational experts recommend either reducing the amount of specificity in statute or creating provision for an alternative model that colleges of education may utilize for state approval of certain of their programs.

Staff Recommendation: Encourage the State Board of Education to include in its teacher education bill a provision in s. 1004.04, F.S., for an alternative model that colleges of education may utilize for state approval of certain of their programs. The alternative model must ensure that teacher education standards remain high. Additional information regarding this issue will be presented to the Board at its January 22 meeting.