March 23, 2006

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Dear Colleagues:

Attached for consideration at the March 31, 2006, Full UCC meeting is a request to change the name of Social Science Education to Social Studies Education under the B.S.Ed., M.Ed., Ed.S., Ed.D., Ph.D. degrees.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. William K. Vencill, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
    Dr. Delmer D. Dunn
TO: Fiona Liken
FROM: Todd Dinkelman, Social Studies Education Program Coordinator
DATE: December 28, 2005
RE: Social Science Education Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Name Change

Request:

As part of a recent reorganization in the College of Education, the former Department of Social Science Education has merged into the new Department of Elementary and Social Studies Education. The Social Studies Education Program is now one of three programs in the new department. This is a request to change the name of the major offered by the Social Studies Education Program from its current Social Science Education to Social Studies Education. We request this change apply to all undergraduate and graduate degrees offered by the Program: B.S.Ed./M.Ed./Ed.S/Ed.D./Ph.D. The Social Studies Program faculty voted unanimously in favor of this change.

Justification:

This major name change is a more appropriate descriptor for our programs than the current designation for several reasons. First, a social studies education major matches the title of the new Department of Elementary and Social Studies Education, and the title of the Social Studies Education Program. Second, the Social Studies Program faculty believes the phrase “social studies education” reflects a well-established trend in the field of social education towards a unifying name for the field. The current “social science education” designation is somewhat anachronistic, as it dates back to a curriculum reform movement popular in the 1960s and early 1970s. The “social science education” major is rare among peer institutions offering comprehensive undergraduate and graduate social studies education programs. The main professional organization for the field is the National Council for the Social Studies. Third, a large majority of the Program’s students enroll in programs leading to a recommendation for initial certification as secondary social studies teachers. Social studies is the more widely used designation for the curriculum area served by our students when they become teachers in public schools in the state of Georgia.
This change is sought for implementation as soon as summer session 2005, if possible.

Please feel free to contact me at 542-6492 or tdink@uga.edu, or Andrew Gitlin, Department Chair, at 542-9283 or gitlin@uga.edu should you require more information.

Todd Dinkelman
Program Coordinator
Social Studies Education

Andrew Gitlin
Department Chair
Department of Elementary and Social Studies Education

Louis Castenell
Dean
College of Education

(approve)