

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Proposed Training Program for Teachers of the Deaf/Hearing Impaired
Date: April 9, 2001

Recommended Action:

Receive the report on the Proposed Training Program for Teachers of the Deaf/Hearing Impaired.

Executive Summary:

For over a decade, the two special schools have urged the development of a training program in Iowa for teachers for the hearing or visually impaired. In July 1999, the Board requested that consideration be given to the establishment of a training program for teachers of the deaf and blind at one of the Regent universities. President Koob was asked to chair this effort. The Board heard reports on the feasibility of such a program in October 1999, January 2000, July 2000, and September 2000. In July 2000, the Board approved President Koob's oral recommendation to establish two collaborative programs, including any needed articulation agreements with out-of-state providers. In September 2000, the Board received a written report that elaborated on the oral recommendations presented in July. This month, President Koob is providing the Board with a report on one of the two proposed programs, the Training Program for Teachers of the Deaf and Hearing-Impaired.

In this report, President Koob proposes that the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) pursue an articulation agreement with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL). This agreement would allow bachelor's degree graduates from UNI to articulate directly into the master's degree teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing program at UNL. The Board Office suggests consideration be given to allowing Special Education graduates of the other Regent universities being eligible for enrollment in this program. UNL would guarantee a specific number of slots for Iowa graduates in its program. Sources of funding for financial assistance would be sought through amendments to existing Iowa College Student Aid Commission loan programs for persons pursuing teacher education in selected disciplines. Students accepting the financial assistance would be obligated to return to Iowa to teach for a specified period.

It will be necessary to secure approval of the course work at UNI and UNL from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners to guarantee that the Iowa endorsement would be granted to the UNI students upon graduation from UNL.

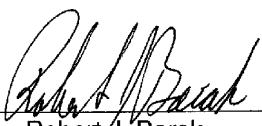
Anlaysis:

The advantages of the proposed approach include the little or no new costs to UNI, the financial provisions for students going to UNL, and the potential that the financial incentives will encourage UNL graduates to return to Iowa to teach.

The disadvantage is that there continues to be no such program in Iowa, and the proposed program will be unlikely to attract what the ISD Advisory Committee feels are the persons who would most likely be interested in this program – current teachers who may find it impossible to go to UNL for the program.

At its winter meeting, the ISD Advisory Committee received a preliminary report on this proposal. The Committee strongly recommended that, as UNI explores the articulation agreement, it would first attempt to arrange for UNL courses to be taught either at UNI or delivered electronically.

If there are no objections from the Board of Regents, UNI will pursue the articulation agreement with UNL.



Robert J. Barak

Approved:  _____
Frank J. Stork