



# WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

November 29, 1979

Senator Tom Jones  
Chairperson, WKU Faculty Senate  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Senator Jones:

These comments are in response to the reference to a proposed increase of education hours for secondary certification from 17 to 36 hours which appeared in the Faculty Senate Newsletter of 11-19-79, p. 4. First, the 17-hour figure is slightly misleading. Our requirements - including the psychology course - now take up 21 hours of our students' programs. The proposed change would circumscribe over thirty percent of a 128-hour degree program.

While there is no assurance that 36 hours of education courses would increase the material conveyed (see enclosure), the proposed change would assuredly further decrease the students' exposure to other, presumably valuable, materials which are normally assumed to comprise the background of an educated person. I don't think we in education in Kentucky should condone any move to further diminish prospective teachers' exposure to an extensive and well-rounded liberal arts program.

As an alternative I suggest we move in the direction of removing all education courses from the undergraduate curriculum. I would prefer that all education training be conducted on the basis of a 5th year, postgraduate program. Students applying for such an intensive, specialized program would have demonstrated competence in the subject matter which they are being trained to teach. (This follows in part from my idea that effective teaching is most likely to result from a love of one's subject matter which leads to a desire to guide others' discovery of that subject. I have seen too many students bent on becoming teachers but unable to decide on a major.) While this proposal might reduce the quantity of our students somewhat, it should increase the quality of the product as well as the market value of Kentucky certificates.

I regard this as a situation of crisis proportions. The problems of public instruction will not be solved solely by improving salaries, though that may permit competition on the part of education for quality people and increase selectivity in the recruitment and retention of teachers. This situation presents an excellent opportunity for the COSFL to exert decisive and innovative leadership with far-reaching implications for the future of Kentucky education.

Sincerely yours,

*Craig H. Taylor*

Craig H. Taylor, Asst. Professor

Enclosure