



“Our Finest Hour” June 22, 2020

Good Monday Morning COE:

Vegetable Garden Update: Salsa is on the horizon, i.e., tomatoes are baseball size right now, onions are mature, and the jalapenos are blooming. Picked a bushel of blue lakes yesterday, and the grandkids dug carrots. Sweet corn is beginning to tassel, and the okra is growing two inches a day. Now, down to business. . . .

Several months ago, I recommended to Provost Einhellig that MSU disaffiliate with CAEP, given that organization’s status and the tremendous amount of resources needed to meet standards that appeared to be more political than academic in nature. After several meetings with University personnel, Dr. Tinkler and I were invited to present my recommendation to the Board of Governors last Friday. Our rationale for discontinuing affiliation with CAEP was well received and supported. Because CAEP spans six academic colleges, we wanted to have University support prior to moving forward. We now have that support.

I will draft a letter to CAEP later today that informs them of our decision. The MSU College of Education, along with our education colleagues across all initial and advanced programs housed in other colleges, will immediately withdraw from any affiliation with CAEP. Approximately 127 other IHEs did so last year, and less than 15% of IHEs nationwide are currently affiliated with them. Beginning immediately, we will no longer pay annual dues, submit annual reports, nor focus on standards that do not align with our Tier One programs. We will, of course, continue to have all of our 72 certification programs approved by DESE by examining our admissions, program rigor, graduation and certification rates, employment, and Missouri Educator Evaluation System data pertaining to effectiveness on the job.

Moreover, we will redirect resources to support student success, faculty research and grant development, social justice initiatives, and program evaluation at the local and state levels. I trust we will also return to using our profession lexicon. We are colleges within a major metropolitan four-year public university. We are not a “provider,” specifically an “educator preparation provider,”” or EPP.” We are much, much more than that, and we will move forward in a much more professional manner.

I thank the scores of faculty and staff who worked so hard over the past six years leading to the site team visit last November. I especially thank Dr. Tinkler and the writing team who brought us to the finish line in exemplary fashion. Somewhat ironically, we completed this past CAEP process better than ever before, at least over the past four decades, which is my frame of reference. This is important because we are now withdrawing from CAEP at a very, very strong position of strength, i.e., all standards met and only one area for improvement being noted by that group. We hit a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth to win the CAEP game. Nicely done, all.

I will share my letter to CAEP with all of you as soon as it is ready to submit. During Administrative Council this morning, I noted the letter will be friendly, professional, concise, and conciliatory. While we have a number of supportive points embedded in our rationale, there is no need to rehash that in my letter. Again, we will redirect our resources to support students and faculty at Missouri's top education college within the second largest university in our State. This is who we are.

Thanks to all of you for making our education programs among the very best in Missouri and beyond. I appreciate you more than words can express.

Keep Calm and Carry On,

David