

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: III – G

DATE: April 1-2, 2015

SUBJECT: Departmental Name Change – NSU

Northern State University has submitted a request seeking authorization to rename the Intensive English Program (IEP) to the Academic English Program (AEP) to better reflect the mission of the program. This change will be effective summer 2015. A letter outlining this request is attached.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve the renaming of the Intensive English Program (IEP) to the Academic English Program (AEP).

January 15, 2015

Dear Dr. Hawley,

I am writing to request approval for the Intensive English Program (IEP) to officially be renamed the Academic English Program (AEP) to better reflect the mission of the program. This academic focus is further indicated by our English for Academic Purposes or EAP course code. It is becoming more and more common to see AEP in the names of similar programs across the US.

While Intensive English Program has served as a satisfactory title for the program operating here on the Northern campus, it gives students the false impression that they can arrive with no English abilities whatsoever and learn the language from the very beginning. In fact, our program is not designed for that purpose but to teach academic English skills to students who already have good conversational English. In this way, even the Beginner Level of the program is not suitable for true beginners of the language. Additionally, IEP is widely recognized as Individualized Education Program which is commonly used in the K-12 system for students in special education programs. This often causes confusion between K-12 and TESOL instructors.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



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