



April 28, 2006

ANDREW A. SORENSEN
PRESIDENT

Dr. Conrad Festa
Executive Director
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Dr. Festa:

Accompanying this letter please find a program planning summary to modify a Doctor of Philosophy in Education Administration, College of Education, USC Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew A. Sorensen'.

Andrew A. Sorensen

AAS:nid
Enclosure

**Commission of Higher Education Planning Document
Submitted by USC-Columbia
Ph. D. in Educational Administration (CD-12 Emphasis)
Lowcountry Graduate Center**

Designation: Ph.D. in Educational Administration

CIP Code: 130401

Proposed Location: Lowcountry Graduate Center, and other sites as demand warrants

Number of Hours: 66 graduate hours

Justification:

The University of South Carolina is requesting approval to offer its existing Ph. D. program in Educational Leadership in the greater Charleston area through the Lowcountry Graduate Center. The degree will be offered with the endorsement and support of The Citadel and the College of Charleston. The Lowcountry Graduate Center will provide the housing for the program delivery and logistical support. The University of South Carolina anticipates starting a sequence of courses every other year, beginning with 2007. This is not a request for a new degree. Instead, it is a request to offer the existing degree in a new location.

Based on surveys conducted in the Lowcountry, there is a significant demand for the Ph. D. Program in Educational Administration. A recent survey (2006) conducted by the Citadel indicates that at least 100 professionals in the greater Charleston area have expressed an interest in pursuing the degree. At present, there is not a South Carolina higher education institution offering that Ph.D. in Educational Administration in the greater Charleston area. The Citadel, College of Charleston, and The Lowcountry Graduate Center all have expressed a desire that the University of South Carolina offer its existing Ph. D. in Educational Administration in the area to fill this gap. These institutions also have pledged to work collaboratively with USC to insure that the degree can be offered with sufficient and qualified personnel, instructional space, and instructional support. In this regard, USC is excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively with other higher education institutions to meet the needs of the citizens of South Carolina. One justification for this request to offer the Ph. D. in Educational Administration in the greater Charleston area certainly is that it will give the involved institutions an opportunity to model how higher education in South Carolina can work cooperatively, bringing an efficiency to the degree delivery that would not otherwise be possible.

The Ph. D. in Educational Administration has been in place for many decades at the Columbia campus of USC and periodically has been offered at what is now the University of South Carolina Upstate. The faculty of the Educational Administration Program of the University of South Carolina thus have the experience and knowledge to

offer the degree. They also have the expertise to offer programs of study other than through traditional delivery in Columbia. The Educational Administration was the first in the College of Education to offer a complete graduate degree via Distance Education, the first to offer a degree via a blended learning model (Internet, face-to-face, etc.), and one of the first to contract with school systems to offer a full program of study leading to administrator certification using the cohort approach that includes a strong field-based component to contextualize the experience.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity.

USC expects that a cohort of 20 greater Charleston area Ph. D. candidates will be admitted to the Ph.D. program in a particular cycle. It is anticipated that a cycle will be initiated once every two years.

Projected Candidates to the Ph.D. in Ed. Adm. (CD-12 emphasis) at Lowcountry Graduate Center				
Year	2007-08	2009-10	2011-12	2013-15
Candidates from Citadel Ed. S. Program in Ed. Adm.	15	15	15	15
Candidates from other institutions	5	5	5	5
TOTAL	20	20	20	20

In addition, the cycle may be offered in other locations if demand warrants. For example, a school district in any area of the state may contact the Program about delivery of the degree to a cohort of identified future educational leaders in that system. In all cases the expected cohort would have to be approximately 20 candidates for the Program to consider offering the cycle.

Assessment of Extent of Proposed Program Duplication: Various doctoral programs, both public and private, do exist in the greater Charleston area. However, no institution in the state offers a Ph. D. program in Educational Administration in that area. Therefore, in terms of type of degree, little or no duplication will occur. While USC Columbia offers a blended delivery format to students on a statewide basis, the proposed program will be delivered on-site at the Lowcountry Graduate Center using traditional delivery methods. Potential cycles in other locations would not be duplicative since the option already exists to provide an online/blended version of the degree. Approval of variable site locations allows more personalization of program delivery. Further, other institutions do not offer the Ph. D. in Educational Administration with a CD-12 emphasis. Therefore, the degree is relatively unique and, thus, generally does not overlap others.

Relationship of Proposed Program to Existing Programs at USC: The Ph. D. program would be offered and overseen by the same faculty that has delivered the program of study in Columbia. The proposed program sequence, a cycle beginning every 2 years at the Lowcountry Graduate Center, will be complementary to the USC Columbia cycles. Course scheduling will be accomplished in such a manner to assure

that USC faculty will be available and involved in the delivery of the curriculum. Should cycles at other sites around the state be offered, these would be scheduled within the context of current commitments of faculty to USC Columbia cycles and Lowcountry Graduate Center cycles.

Relationship of Proposed Program to Other Institutions: The Citadel, College of Charleston, and the Lowcountry Graduate Center are supportive of this initiative, and each has indicated a willingness to provide support in various forms to insure that the program leading to Ph. D. in Educational Administration will be successfully delivered. Support from these institutions includes space, qualified faculty to serve on doctoral committees, staffing of select courses, and communication with prospective students through their various media outlets. In all cases USC will maintain final authority over the structure, delivery, and staffing of the program.

Total New Costs: This is a request to offer an existing degree program in a new location, with cycles complementing those already in place in Columbia. Therefore, no major new costs are anticipated. The only anticipated cost is related to travel for USC faculty teaching at the Lowcountry Graduate Center. However, if the expected cohort of 20 students proceeds through the program, the tuition from the cohort will more than cover travel costs. Some faculty may teach courses during the summer during their off-contract period and be paid. However, this already occurs in Columbia, and it is not anticipated that the cost for such summer teaching will differ from what is now experienced.

Revised: April 20,2006