DATE: February 7, 2019

TO: UW System Deans and Directors of Education Programs

FROM: Carleen Vande Zande, Associate Vice President
Academic Programs and Educational Innovation

RE: UW System Academic Program Planning in Teacher Education

During the last academic year, and this past fall semester, the Education Committee of the Board of Regents requested that UW System Administration present information about teacher education programs both across this state and nationally. The Regent’s Education Committee heard several panels and presentations on teacher education, as you may recall, with an outstanding culminating presentation by UW La Crosse and its teacher education programs.

The System has since convened a Teacher Education Task Force. Your deans have a couple of representatives on that Task Force and I expect they will provide you with updates on the progress of this work. Barbara Bales, Sr. Academic Planner with the UW System and our liaison to your deans and directors group is also a part of the task force resource staff.

Another phase of the teacher education charge from the Board is to study the existing program offerings across the System to determine the current programmatic capacity in this field. This work will involve the Provost Council of the UW System, the Office of Policy Analysis and Research and the Office of Academic Programs and Educational Innovation. Sr. Academic Planner Barbara Bales is also engaged with our System staff in this work and will periodically provide you with updates on the progress of this work. Your Provosts should be able to inform you of this work at your local campus level.

The System and the Provost Council have adopted a sector based planning approach to academic planning to accomplish this work. A sector based planning approach requires a study of the current state of offerings in an academic area as well as an overview of the demand in a particular field. Each year UW System will look at a curricular area to determine our current capacity to meet demand and then to put into place academic planning to meet the demand.

System administrators will collect data about the number of graduates in teacher education from a variety of sources to gain a perspective of which pathways students are using to prepare to enter the education field including traditional teacher education programs, post-bacc programs, district-sponsored programs, and master’s degree licensure programs.
These data will be presented to the Provosts at their next Provost meeting this spring. Provosts will discuss these data with relevant staff at their institutions guided by a set of program planning expectations from UW System in the hopes that the institutions will consider creating proposals for programming.

The Provosts will bring the proposals back to the UW System Provost Council for a system-wide discussion about capacity and expansion in teacher education programs. At that time, the discussion will focus on which institutions are best positioned to create/adopt/adapt programs to meet the demand for teachers in WI. After deliberations with the Provosts, UW System, in collaboration with the Provosts, will ask for full approvals to plan. The System will provide a list of possibilities for your campuses to consider making into proposals. All program decisions will be made at the institution level using your established shared governance processes.

This work will also informed by a research study looking at the edTPA scores to look for strengths in teacher’s performance to determine if there is a correlation of the test results and how teachers perform in the schools. The research project is located at UWM’s Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education Center and sponsored by UW System.

As this work progresses, I am happy to answer any questions that you have. I do anticipate that you will have regular updates at your meetings and through your institution’s Provost communications.