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Office of the President
January 23, 2007

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of
Philosophy degree with a major in Education Sciences (CIP Code 13.0601, PROG = GS PHD
EDSC), effective in the spring 2007 semester.

Background: The Ph.D. in Education Sciences is an interdisciplinary degree representing
collaboration and participation across five of the six departments within the College of
Education to better prepare students to meet the growing statewide and national need for
educators who are well trained in methodological issues in education research.

The program will provide all students with extensive preparation in methodological and policy
related issues. In addition, students will then focus on an area of specialization, in one of the
following areas: Curriculum and Instruction; Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry; Educational
Evaluation and Measurement; Early Childhood Education; Educational Leadership; Special
Education; or Rehabilitation Counseling.

The nature of educational research has changed in recent years. With the formation of the
Institute for Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education, there has been tremendous
growth in the demand for field-based clinical trials in education research. In addition, given the
impact of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act on state-level policies, it is imperative to
prepare individuals of the highest caliber to assist educators in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
with meeting the requirements of the legislation. NCLB gives important responsibilities to the
states, and the Ph.D. program will allow for the preparation of individuals who will be well
trained to assist Kentucky in meeting these varied and complex requirements.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and University Senate, and it has
completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of
the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: ☑ Approved   ❑ Disapproved   ❑ Other _____