

TO: Dean Zeran

FROM: Jack V. Hall

SUBJECT: Report on the chronological development of the Department of Elementary Education



Joint-Degrees; Elementary Teacher Education Program

In 1951, Oregon State College began an elementary education program on a co-operative basis with Oregon College of Education at Monmouth. Students in the School of Education completed work at Oregon State College through their junior year and followed a prescribed program, enrolled at Oregon College of Education their senior year which included basically, Methodology and student teaching. Upon completion of their senior year at Oregon College of Education, these students obtained an Ed. B from Oregon State College and a B.S. degree in elementary education from Oregon College of Education.

In 1953, the first group of these students received their degrees. The last group of students in this program graduated in 1955.

Anderson Report and 4-Year Degree Course In Elementary Education

The Anderson report, authorized by the legislature, conducted in 1953, "A Survey of Some Phases of Teacher Education in the Oregon State System of Higher Education," had particular implications for elementary education at Oregon State College. As a result of this survey, the State Board of Higher Education approved the offering of a 4-year degree course in elementary education, beginning in September 1954, at Oregon State College.

In June 1956, the first class of graduates in our own 4-year elementary education program received their B.S. degrees in elementary education. ~~With the start of the Winter term (1957-58 academic year) the School of Education was the 4th largest in enrollment on the campus. Approximately one-half of those enrolled were in elementary education.~~

I. The Program

Elementary education includes teaching in kindergarten through grade six. No

minor areas are recommended for undergraduate students majoring in elementary education; rather, students are encouraged to develop one or more interest areas since they will, for the most part be teaching in self-contained classrooms with sole responsibility for all or nearly all the subjects taught.

No graduate degrees are offered in elementary education at Oregon State University. However, since the 1955 summer session, two graduate courses have been taught during summer sessions only: Education 553, Elementary School Curriculum and Education 554, Elementary School Supervision and Administration. One or more successful years of elementary teaching experience is a prerequisite for these graduate courses.

The elementary program was first evaluated on November 8-9, 1954, by a team of experts representing colleges, elementary administrators and classroom teachers sponsored by the Oregon State Department of Education. Approval was given at this time to the junior and senior years of the elementary program. The total elementary program, freshmen through senior years, was approved for a five-year period following a second evaluation by the Oregon State Department of Education, March 5-6, 1956.

Continuous analysis of the course offerings in elementary education have been undertaken by the elementary education staff in close cooperation with other schools at Oregon State University who have provided the remaining portions of the elementary curriculum.

Through committee actions, areas of concentration have been developed in:

(1) Art (2) English (3) Mathematics (4) Modern Languages (5) Music (6) Physical Education and Health (7) Science (8) Social Sciences and (9) Speech. These areas of concentration were implemented to answer the need for depth as well as breadth in course offerings.

Experimental Developments

The elementary staff participated in the development of a proposal to the Ford Foundation sponsored Oregon project to conduct a graduate teaching intern program cooperatively with Beaverton, Coos Bay, Coquille, and Corvallis. As a part of the development of this proposal, elementary staff members visited Stan-

ford University, San Jose State College in California, and Central Washington College. Many worthwhile ideas were evaluated, some of which have been implemented in our elementary program.

According to the State Department of Education Special Services Division, Oregon State University recommended 186 elementary education graduates to the State Board of Education for certification in 1964.

In 1966, ²⁵²~~222~~ elementary education graduates were recommended for certification. It is significant that Oregon State University now has the largest elementary teacher education program in the state of Oregon. Moving from a very modest beginning a decade ago to our present position has been accented by efforts to continuously evaluate the program.

Organization of the Department of Elementary Education

During the 1964-65 year, authorization was granted to the School of Education to develop a Department of Elementary Education. Committees were appointed to develop criteria for the selection of a Department Head and to develop democratic ^{Procedures}~~majority~~ for the election of the Department Head. Other committees examined the guidelines for developing a department. In the Spring term 1965, Jack V. Hall was elected to serve as Chairman, subject to administrative approval. Dean Zeran forwarded this approval to the Dean of Faculty for appropriate official action. The new Department of Elementary Education has been in operation with administrative approval since September 1965.

Future plans call for the development of a policy handbook. Guidelines will be developed for departmental policies. A continuous effort will be undertaken to search for ways to improve offerings in elementary education.