

Counselor education program once again denied certification

By Kirsten Bolin
Of the Emerald

Despite meeting all state-established criteria, the public school counselor training program at the University's College of Education was denied program approval by members of the State Teachers Standards and Practices Commission on Friday.

The commission's decision means that students entering the counseling program after 1986 cannot be certified to work as counselors in the state's public elementary and secondary schools. Those already enrolled have until fall of 1986 to complete the program.

The TSPC ruling will affect about 15 University students each year who want to become public school counselors. But the ruling will not affect students studying to become counselors in community mental health programs, such as mental health clinics and family counseling agencies.

"Their decision was based on 33 standards, all were met, but three were minimally met," says Robert Gilberts, College of Education dean.

The three "minimally met" standards were procedures calling for use of a program advisory committee and long-range planning.

"Our program was judged

very favorably... the quality of the faculty and of the graduates was never questioned," says Jerry Kranzler, counseling psychology professor.

Both Gilberts and Kranzler were skeptical of the TSPC decision and questioned the commission's apparent priority of procedural standards over

said producing that report would have taken an excessive amount of time so they submitted a less detailed version instead. The commission found this scaled-down report unsatisfactory.

University officials were originally going to contest the commission's ruling at a hear-

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qualitative measures.

"I don't think it's a very effective way of determining a program's worth," Gilberts says.

Gilberts does not yet know if the decision will be appealed.

"It isn't a decision I can make alone," he says. Instead, he says he will wait to make the decision until all the faculty involved in the program return in September.

This latest move by the commission upholds a decision made earlier this year to rescind the college's public school counselor certification program.

The commission first revoked approval in April when the University failed to produce a requested report on the counseling program. College officials

ing in June, but that was canceled after lawyers from both sides met and agreed that the College of Education would produce the detailed report on their program originally requested by the commission.

It was this final report that the TSPC deemed unsatisfactory on Friday.

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