Dear SIU Doc Graduates (2006-2012):

We are so grateful you took the time to respond to our survey. I promised you an email with the results. Please find attached the raw data in pdf form. The paragraph about the survey is in red. I welcome feedback. Also, the following is being sent to CACREP as a part of our report.

“As mentioned in Section I, subsection H, above, we have, as a faculty studied other counselor education programs to determine which ones seemed to be the most successful in attracting, retaining, and graduating good quality doctoral students. As a result, we have decided to try a full-time cohort model. Students may apply for the doctoral program year round, however, each “cohort” starts in the Fall only. We have only done this since 2008. That “cohort” was retained and graduated (except for one loss to death).

Another change we effected was to increase the research requirements. Doctoral students routinely did poorly on their first round of preliminary exams particularly in both research and appraisal. As a result, the EPSY 568c syllabus was modified, students were required to take EPSY 507 and an additional qualitative course. Subsequent changes under discussion are to remove EPSY 506 as a requirement for the doctoral program as it is already a requirement for the MS programs. Therefore, we are going to require a survey design course for Academic Year 13-14.

Finally, the 9 doctoral graduates from 2006-2012 were asked to complete the 2012 Doctoral Graduates’ survey. Seven responded and indicated that graduates could agree, in general, they had received a good education, however, significant areas of improvement were related to research and scholarly work and student support. Three out of the seven respondents specifically pointed to issues related to faculty stability (one person stated “Return to fell staffing levels”). Certainly, research and student support issues were identified in 2008 by faculty. Addressing non-dominant group doctoral students’ sense of isolation was also an issue for two out of the seven. This is of particular concern, because faculty have worked to create a more inclusive, safe, and healthy environment in which doctoral students might learn and grow. Indeed, our current 10 doctoral students are from several different cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds. We will need to continue to address this issue! We have no way of knowing if the changes made since 2008 are adequately reflected in the data collected from the 9 graduates as only 2 out of 9 have graduated since the first “cohort” was established, and no-one has graduated since the new research requirements and the weekly all doctoral student supervision meeting were implemented. We have discussed faculty FTE’s earlier and throughout this document.”