



Office of Student Services
College of Education

31 August 2005

Edward R. Swan
725 E Elm
Othello, WA 99344

Dear Mr. Swan:

Yesterday I received a fax from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) along with a copy of the proposed contract that was given to you at our meeting last Wednesday, August 24, 2005.

First, I would like to apologize for any misunderstanding regarding the proposed contract. I thought we were clear in stating to you that you were not required to sign the contract at all, thus there was no threat to terminate if you elected not to sign the contract. We stated to you in our August 24 meeting that the purpose of the meeting and the contract was: (1) to clarify for you expectations for success in the teacher certification program, (a professional certificate program which requires compliance with state and professional standards); (2) to introduce to you the requirements of the Performance-Based Pedagogy Assessment, (a state document used to assess candidate performance in student teaching); and (3) to provide some recommendations to assist you in understanding and meeting the pedagogy assessment criteria.

The contract itself does contain binding language, however, with which we understand you object. Indeed, it appears by your notation on the signed contract I received from you that you do not wish to participate in any of the activities proposed to you in the contract. That is your prerogative. In view of that, we will not be entering this agreement. If, however, you do wish to take advantage of any of the activities enumerated in the proposed contract or otherwise available through the university, please feel free to contact me; I would be happy to make arrangements for you, as faculty wish to provide you with professional experiences and access to resources that will contribute to your success as a teacher certificate candidate.

The rules applicable to teacher certification are found in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-78A-270 *et. seq.* It states in pertinent part:

Teacher candidates will complete a well-planned sequence of courses and/or experiences in which they acquire and apply knowledge about [...] [d]ifferent student approaches to learning for creating instructional opportunities adapted to learners of both sexes and from diverse cultural or linguistic backgrounds.

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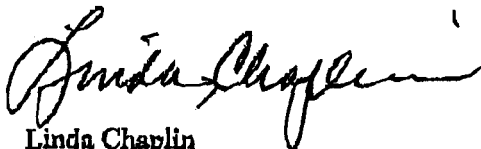
WAC 180-78A-270(1)(m). Your P-12 field experiences like those of all teacher certificate candidates will be evaluated using the Performance-Based Pedagogy Assessment and the Professional Dispositions Evaluation for Field Experiences. I wish to assure you that your fitness to teach, insofar as your student teaching experience proceeds, will be assessed upon your performance in the practicum setting.

Finally, I want to clarify that if you need assistance with a hearing impairment, you should contact the Disability Resources Center, Ad Annex 205, 335-1566.

If you have any questions or would like to meet again with faculty, please let me know. If you wish to have a FIRE representative participate in the discussions, we can make arrangements for a time when they can participate by telephone.

I wish you much success as you continue to work toward your teaching certificate.

Sincerely,



Linda Chaplin
Director