Hello campus community,

As many of you know, for the last three years, CSUCI has been collaborating with Fresno State University in the delivery of an online doctoral program (CODEL). This past August, the MOU between Fresno State and CSUCI expired which provided an opportunity to consider this program and its relation to the mission and future directions of the School of Education (SoE) and CI. Toward this goal, the SoE held 6 focus groups of faculty CODEL students, community stakeholders, and others. Many of you participated in the focus groups and/or found other venues for expressing your thoughts on CODEL. Thank you for sharing your interest, passion, and perspectives!

In addition to the focus groups, the process for exploring CODEL’s future at CI also entailed a thorough examination of CODEL’s founding documents (bylaws, original MOU, WASC proposal, fiscal records, etc.). This process, considered in light of the capacities and direction of the School of Education, has led campus leadership to determine we will not be signing a new MOU to continue participation in CODEL.

There are some important things to note. First, CSUCI’s non-renewal, does NOT end the program, it has relocated CODEL to the Fresno State School of Education. The WASC documents explicitly state that existing CODEL cohorts become Fresno State doctoral students with CSUCI’s decision to end CODEL partnering; cohorts 2, 3, and 4 will complete their EdDs at Fresno State. Second, the FS School of Education has decided to continue the program and will be opening up the application process for the next cohort soon. CI SoE faculty are continuing to serve on CODEL dissertation committees and are teaching some CODEL courses as well. Finally, CSUCI is assisting in transitioning the learning supports offered by our amazing Teaching and Learning Innovations staff to Fresno counterparts in order to minimize any disruption experienced by CODEL students. The transition will be bumpy at first, but deans from CSUCI and Fresno recently conducted Zoom meetings with each of the current cohorts to provide information, answer questions, and respond to concerns students might have had about the transition.

Please know that the decision to discontinue the formal partnership for CODEL was neither a hastily-derived nor a pre-determined outcome. The time and steps taken to consider holistically CSUCI’s involvement in CODEL reflects a thorough and comprehensive look at this program.

After consulting with the Senate Executive Committee, we wanted to distribute this information broadly to Academic Affairs. Thank you for your work and interest in CODEL, for sharing your experiences with CODEL, and for supporting, advising, teaching, and mentoring the CODEL students these past years.

***Brian R. Sevier, PhD***

Dean, School of Education

California State University Channel Islands

(805) 437-2073