

### **Section I: Request**

The Department of Geography at the University of Utah would like to discontinue the Geography Teaching BA and BS degrees.

### **Section II: Need**

During the last five years (Fall 2005-Spring 2010), only two students have graduated with a Geography Teaching BS degree and zero students graduated with a Geography Teaching BA degree. For the last twelve years (since the University of Utah switched to the semester system), only ten students graduated with these degrees. Currently, there are two students who have declared Geography Teaching BS as a major. No students are declared as Geography Teaching BA majors. The Social Science Composite Teaching BA and BS degrees prepare students to be licensed to teach Geography along with other Social Science areas. Therefore, students are choosing the SS Composite major over the Geography Teaching BA/BS as it gives them more flexibility and makes them more marketable to prospective employers. Little demand exists for these Geography Teaching degree programs with the availability of the SS Composite major.

### **Section III: Institutional Impact**

The impact of this change on student enrollments and degree selection will be minimal. The Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE) in the U of U College of Education was contacted regarding impacts upon the teaching programs in the College of Education. The UITE contacted Granite School District for feedback regarding this proposal. Both UITE and Granite School District indicated no negative impacts from the discontinuation of these programs.

Both students, who are currently enrolled in the Geography Teaching BS program, are seniors and have already completed the only class (GEOG 5700 Teaching Methods in Geography) which will be impacted by this action. All other classes will remain available and all requirements can be completed. Returning and transfer students will be directed to the SS Composite Teaching major.

### **Section IV: Finances**

There will be small economic savings to the Department of Geography in several ways. The geography teaching methods course (GEOG 5700) would be discontinued. This course, which is required to be offered for the two degree programs, has had very low enrollments and is a money loser. Administrative time spent on maintaining the two unused programs would be saved. This impact is heightened with the University's guaranteed degree program which requires coordination with the College of Education on a continuous basis. Major requirement sheets and other promotional information would no longer be printed or distributed.