

## **Background on PEP-C Changes**

The Committee currently known as Professional Education Programs Committee (PEP-C) was established in fall, 1996 as the Committee on Education Programs (CEP). The original description of CEP (SEHS by-Laws, 1996) states: “This Committee is the only Gallaudet University committee solely concerned with undergraduate and graduate level preparation for school professionals. As a policy-making body, the Committee reviews and approves programs and courses to ensure quality control of the academic core and compliance with certification and accreditation standards.” In the original by-laws statement, the CEP ‘s purposes and functions are detailed in two full pages.

CEP members later felt that the purpose and functions of the Committee were too broad and unmanageable. Therefore, in a subsequent SEHS by-laws revision (12/98) a number of the functions were omitted, and the primary focus of the CEP became curricular review to ensure compliance with certification and accreditation standards.

In 1999 the SEHS by-law amendments were again submitted, and accepted, to accomplish three goals:

- 1) Committee name was changed from CEP to PEP-C;
- 2) Purpose was again revised to explicitly focus on curriculum;
- 3) Function was explicitly broadened to include undergraduate programs.

In 2000, with the restructuring of Gallaudet administrative structures, the School of Educations and Human Services was dissolved. Many of the departments and programs in SEHS became part of the Graduate School and Professional Programs (GSPP). As part of the transition, and as one of the final acts of SEHS, a proposal was submitted to the new Dean of GSPP requesting that PEP-C be continued as a structure for faculty governance via curricular review of all professional education programs. However, with the new administrative structure, PEP-C lost its constitutional legitimacy and purpose.

The proposal to establish PEP-C as a subcommittee of the Council on Graduate Education and the Council on Undergraduate Education is intended to restore the legitimacy and purpose. With this proposal PEP-C would continue to be the only governance body to focus solely on programs that prepare education professionals. PEP-C would continue to review programs proposals and revisions for curricular compliance with certification and accreditation standards, and would submit its recommendations to CGE and CUE respectively.