

January 19, 2011

received  
1-21-11



Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr.  
President  
Missouri State University  
901 South National Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65897

Re: Doctor of Nurse Practitioner Degree

Dear President Cofer:

This will acknowledge receipt of your December 13, 2010 letter to President Forsee and Chancellor Deaton informing them of Missouri State University's intent to seek approval from the CBHE to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in place of its currently offered Master's Degree for Nurse Practitioners.

As you know, Section 174.225, RSMo 2005 Supp. expressly authorized Missouri State University to grant doctoral degrees in audiology and physical therapy, while at the same time prohibiting Missouri State University from offering other doctoral degrees except in cooperation with the University of Missouri, a limitation which I understand was agreed to by representatives of Missouri State University. Your letter asserts that the "planned transition from master's to clinical doctoral education [for nurse practitioners] follows the same path as previous successful transitions for the DPT and the AuD."

Under the extremely unusual circumstances summarized in your letter related to the DNP, the University of Missouri pledges not to oppose Missouri State University's request for approval by the CBHE of its desire to replace its Master's Degree for Nurse Practitioners with a degree to be known as a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

Please understand, however, that the above pledge related to the DNP does not signal that such acquiescence should be expected in other circumstances because, as you also know, Section 174.225, RSMo 2005 Supp. provides, in relevant part, as follows:

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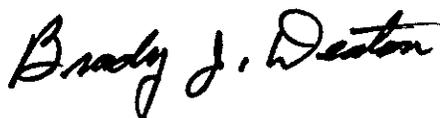
“Missouri State University shall offer engineering programs and doctoral programs only in cooperation with the University of Missouri; provided that such cooperative agreements are approved by the governing boards of each institution and that in these instances the University of Missouri shall be the degree-granting institution.”

Thank you for contacting us about your request. We look forward to working together with you and the other fine people at Missouri State for benefit of this great state.

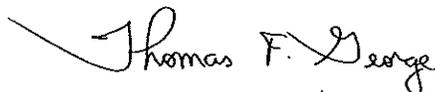
Sincerely,



Stephen J. Owens  
Interim President



Brady J. Deaton, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, University of Missouri-Columbia



Thomas F. George, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, University of Missouri-St. Louis



Leo E. Morton  
Chancellor, University of Missouri-Kansas City

c: Dr. David Russell, Commissioner of Higher Education ✓  
Dr. Steven Graham, Senior Associate Vice President, University of Missouri System