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# Graduate Program Review

## President's Decisions and Recommendations

### Deletion

**Program:** Master of Arts in Teaching of Geography  
 Department: Consolidate with MA in Geography  
 Dean Kent: Consolidate with MA in Geography  
 Graduate Program Review Team: Consolidate with MA in Geography  
 Provost Delene: Terminate with any continuing initiative in that area integrated with an expanded program in science education and/or environmental studies

**Recommendation:** Appeals Committee: Voted unanimously to recommend that the M.A. in Teaching of Geography be terminated, while expressing strong support for faculty's and GPR team's desire to keep the program in its departmental home. The committee recommends that any other issues be addressed through the curricular process.

President Bailey: Delete the MA in Teaching of Geography. Geography faculty should engage in curricular review process to consolidate teaching emphasis with MA in Geography.

**Enrollment:**  
 03-04 3 students  
 04-05 0 students  
 05-06 0 students

**Rationale:** Over the last four decades, the MA in the Teaching of Geography program has compiled an outstanding record of effective teacher preparation and placement. It is essential that WMU's degrees be recognized by the Michigan Department of Education. This designation has taken on greater significance in the last month, due to the passage of The Michigan High School Graduation Requirements Acts (2006), which are designed to bring the state's educational system into closer compliance with provisions of the federal NCLB legislation. The Acts identify Geography as a "core" subject and require that teachers of the subject hold the equivalent of a major in the discipline or a master's degree. Given that Western Michigan University offers the only MA in Geography in the state of Michigan, the department feels that the continuation of a teaching emphasis within the master's degree will be of vital importance in meeting projected increases in external demand.

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the proposal to

**Recommendation:** delete the Master of Arts in the Teaching of Geography degree. Deletion of the program becomes effective at the conclusion of the 2009-10 academic year or the last graduation date of any currently enrolled students, whichever comes first.

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