Appendix A4.6.6

College of Education

Writing Initiative
Dear Colleagues:

As you are aware, the College of Education launched its Reading, Writing and Research Initiative in the fall of 2010. A committee was established to provide coordination and leadership for this project, which is necessary as a means to ensure better preparation of our students to become highly effective 21st century teachers. It is the fervent aim of the College to boost student intellectual and academic development by enhancing reading, writing and investigative skills.

The Reading Initiative is designed to produce multiple outcomes. One is to grow knowledge in the discipline. Another is to increase the discovery of knowledge in general. Other outcomes are to promote life-long learning skills, raise curiosity about the nature of teaching and learning, as well as to prepare students for future graduate studies.

Pursuing this initiative also allows us to address the need to foster critical thinking. As you are aware, this requirement is set forth in the Quality Enhancement Plan of Florida A&M University. It is anticipated that well planned activities that integrate efforts related to the enhancement of reading, writing and investigative skills will support our aims for the overall student success of our students, while they matriculate and when they enter the field.

In this connection, I want to introduce to you Great Books in Education, a focal point of the Reading Initiative. This is simply a list of books that every education student should read before receiving a degree. This venture will expose students to a body of information and knowledge about teacher education programs, best practices and history. See list, purpose of the list and suggested uses of the list attached.

Every faculty member is encouraged to get involved in this project. First, you are asked to be sure that the recommended books are incorporated into your course curriculum (a), wherever appropriate. Secondly, you are asked to review the list of books being recommended and respond to Dr. Gail Bauman, Committee Chair, with suggestions you may have. Your input is particularly needed in identifying where and how you see the list best being used and at what level (s) each book is most appropriate. Please respond to Dr. Bauman at gail.bauman@famu.edu by no later than March 4, 2011.

Finally, each department chair is asked to ensure that his/her faculty identifies at least one book from the list to be incorporated into each of his/her course (es), as a part of his/her Assignment of Responsibilities (AOR).

I appreciate all that you do and all that you will do to help make this effort a success. With the Reading, Writing and Research Initiative Committee, I look forward to your timely input and responses, as we anticipate full implementation in Fall 2011.

Very truly yours,

Genniver Bell, Dean, College of Education