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Office of the President
February 25, 2003

Members, Board of Trustees:

CHANGE IN NAME OF AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the change in the name of the Department of Family Practice to the Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine in the College of Medicine.

Background: The combined mission of these disciplines is a natural merger of historical interests. There has been, from the inception of both of these disciplines, a strong relationship between primary care and family medicine, with the former focusing on the individual and the family, and the latter focusing on the community as a patient and an area of study.

The reasons for this request are several. Many of the research activities of the Department are not related exclusively to clinical family practice but have a much broader scope of interest, specifically in areas of health services research, community benefits analysis, and studies in population-based research. The Department also has a strong educational interest in Community Medicine. The Healthy Human course in the first year, the clinical clerkship, and proposed new tracks in rural medicine have attempted to integrate the issues of the community along with those of the family. At the graduate level, the residency program now has a required community-oriented primary care project in which all residents diagnose a community problem, develop an intervention, and assess the effectiveness of the intervention in some measure of health change in the concerning community. The Department has also been heavily involved in service as part of its community medicine efforts.

The proposed change has been approved by the faculty in the Department and the Academic Council for the Medical Center; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council; and approved by the University Senate. The Senior Vice President and Chancellor for the Medical Center, the Provost, and the President of the University support this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____