

Minutes
Academic Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees
January 27, 2004

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met in the Board Room, 18th Floor Patterson Office Tower at 9:30 a.m. on January 27, 2004. Alice Sparks, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order. The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Michael Kennedy, Elissa Plattner, Elaine Wilson, and Barbara Young. Other Board members in attendance: Davy Jones, Rachel Watts, Marian Sims, Russ Williams, Marianne Smith Edge, JoEtta Wickliffe, Pam May, and Myra Tobin.

Ms. Sparks introduced the following resolutions, which are to be presented for approval at the Board of Trustee meeting:

AACR 1 Candidates for Degrees—Community College System - Resolution requesting that the degrees specified on an attached list be awarded to the persons named, upon certification that the requirements for those degrees have been satisfactorily completed. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Elaine Wilson to approve the recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 2 College of Pharmacy Reorganization – Resolution requesting the Board of Trustees approve the reorganization of the College of Pharmacy. The reorganization would include the creation of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science. With the creation of these two departments, the Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Division of Pharmacy Practice and Science would be dissolved, effective July 1, 2004.

Dr. Nietzel told the committee that the reorganization will formalize the structure of the college and enhance its ability to continue success in teaching, research and service. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Elaine Wilson to approve the recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Sparks announced that the major topic for discussion was an update on Early Childhood Education. The Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Early Childhood Education and the Minority Recommendation Ad Hoc Committee on Early Childhood Education were distributed to the Academic Affairs Committee late last week.

Dr. Nietzel reminded those in attendance that the Ad Hoc Committee on Early Childhood Education was appointed in July 2003 to review the Early Childhood Education component of the Department of Family Studies and determine its optimal position in the University structure to fulfill its mission. The reports reflect there are still differing opinions.

The Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Early Childhood Education recognizes that both the College of Agriculture and the College of Education have the capacity to provide adequate faculty and administrative resources to administer the program. However, there are distinctions

between the colleges that include program identity, external linkages, visibility and recruitment, collaborations, and overall efficiency. The report recommends that the ECE component of the Department of Family Studies be relocated to the College of Education. However, the report cautions that the impact on the Department of Family Studies and the School of Human Environmental Sciences would be substantial.

The Minority Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Early Childhood Education concluded that ECE should remain as an integrated component of the Department of Family Studies in the School of Human Environmental Sciences of the College of Agriculture. In its current structure, the ECE program is successful and, in many ways a model of interdisciplinary collaboration across colleges. There are many examples of ECE programs located in family studies departments within colleges or schools of human environmental sciences, but they are not usually located in colleges of agriculture. At this point it is premature to relocate the program since it has been in the college for such a short time.

Dr. Plattner asked for clarification as to why collaboration with the College of Education ended in 1988. According to the faculty in attendance and the report, the former College of Human Environmental Sciences (HES) began offering an undergraduate child development major in the 1930's. The intent of this major, as well as the development of the Early Childhood Laboratory (also begun during that time), was to "support home economics students in the study and application of principles of child development and family life education. That emphasis changed in 1977 when HES began offering an Early Childhood Education teacher certification program in collaboration with the College of Education. When that program ended in 1988, the Department of Family Studies began an Applied Child Development option within the Individual and Family Development undergraduate major. This option trained early care and education teachers to work in *non-public school* settings.

That option lasted until 1994 when, subsequent to the passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act, the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) teaching certificate undergraduate degree program was developed. This teaching certificate enables graduates to teach children birth to 5 years of age, with and without disabilities, in public school settings. The development of the certification negated the appeal of the Applied Child Development option, as students with those degrees could not be employed in public school settings, where they could make better salaries than in non-public school settings. As a result, that option was dropped in 1995. In addition to the elimination of the Applied Child Development option, the teaching certification also changed the major emphasis of the Early Childhood Lab to one of training certified teachers. Initially, students could receive the IECE degree only at the undergraduate level. In 1998, a Masters degree, with initial teacher certification, was developed for students coming into the field with related undergraduate degrees (e.g., speech/language therapy, family studies, psychology). In addition to the current undergraduate and graduate certification programs, students also can achieve certification through an alternate certification program that involves documentation of proficiencies in all IECE teacher standards. The Departments of Family Studies and the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling jointly administer both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

At the June 24, 2003 meeting of the Board of Trustees when the transfer of Human Environmental Sciences to the College of Agriculture was approved, the Board requested that the President and Provost commence an immediate review of the Early Childhood Education component of the Department of Family Studies in order to determine its optimal position in the University structure to fulfill its mission. Dr. Nietzel said this request is what precipitated the evaluation of the program.

Dr. Kennedy expressed concern that the report seems to be silent on which department the four faculty appointments would reside in if the program is moved to the College of Education and questioned whether something innovative might be arranged rather than an either/or choice. Dr. Slatin told the committee that Dr. James Cibulka, Dean of the College of Education, spoke to the ad hoc committee and said it was premature to discuss the departmental location of faculty until the Board made a decision.

Due to faculty commitment and student demand, Dr. Nietzel said he believed the program would be successful regardless of where it is located. However, he expressed concern regarding the impact of changes on the Ph.D. in Family Studies. He stated this is a very difficult matter to resolve. The issue is being discussed today because the Board asked for a report on Early Childhood Education. If there are additional organizational changes proposed, the proposal will need to be reviewed by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the University Senate before a recommendation could be brought to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Dr. Sparks expressed appreciation on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee for the ad hoc committee's deliberations. The Academic Affairs Committee will be meeting the day before the next Board Meeting and will discuss this further.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Sparks, Chair
Academic Affairs Committee