

Minutes
Academic Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees
December 13, 2005

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met in Room A, 18th Floor Patterson Office Tower at 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2005. Myra Tobin, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order. The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Ann Haney, Roy Moore, Penny Brown and Barbara Young.

Ms. Tobin distributed the minutes of the October 25, 2005 meeting and asked for any corrections or additions. There being no changes, a motion was made by Barbara Young to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Scott Smith, Interim Provost, gave a brief background of the Early Childhood Education program and the merger of the College of Human Environmental Sciences with the College of Agriculture. Dr. Smith introduced Dr. Jennifer Grisham-Brown, Director of the Early Childhood Education Program.

Dr. Grisham-Brown reported the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Program was moved to the College of Education in Fall 2004. Her report addressed the present status of the program, as well as remaining challenges resultant from the move.

The undergraduate program has been completely reorganized so that early childhood faculty now teach the majority of courses, with four courses remaining in Family Studies. Most of the Family Studies courses continue to be taught by staff from the early childhood laboratory on an adjunct basis. The new IECE program was approved by the University Senate in summer 2005 and represents a streamlined program with creative course offerings such as block scheduling and additional practicum experiences for students prior to student teaching.

The former early childhood graduate program in Family Studies has been eliminated as well as the former early childhood special education graduate program. In its place is a new interdisciplinary early childhood education graduate program that allows students flexibility in terms of area of focus and research experiences. The graduate certification program is no longer offered and in its place is a post-baccalaureate program that leads to initial certification for professions in the field who have bachelors degrees and want to teach, but do not want a master's degree.

The early childhood laboratory remains in the basement of Erikson Hall. Despite the condition of the facility, the program continues to maintain the highest standards. Within the last year, the ECL was re-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and received a 4-STAR rating for the 3rd year in a row. There are only seven 4-STAR centers in the state.

The College of Education has provided excellent support to the program. The Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling supported the program through its curricular changes and voted to allow the program to create a new course prefix on all of its courses (IEC). As well, the department and college administration has supported faculty research by providing funds for additional research and travel. Space was provided for all grant staff and research assistants who moved over to the College including new work stations and computers. PIs on grants are allowed to utilize incentive funds to support additional research. Recently, funds were allocated in support of major renovations to the ECL.

Two of four faculty lines in early childhood were transferred to the College of Education. While the faculty has streamlined the undergraduate and graduate programs, the reduction of two faculty lines has made it difficult to cover courses and conduct research. Recently they were awarded a post baccalaureate personnel prep grant and a doctoral grant. The addition of these students will further stretch the faculty.

When the program moved to Education, Family Studies chose to keep the child development courses, as well as a course on child guidance. This seemed an appropriate decision at the time since it was the intent of the department to maintain a focus in child/human development. However, those lines remain unfilled. As a result those courses are not covered by regular faculty or in one case the course is not being taught at all. This presents a barrier for students who need the required course to graduate.

Dr. Smith introduced Dr. Ann Vail, who has been Director of the School of Human Environmental Sciences for close to four months, for an overview of the program.

The School of Human Environmental Sciences unites four units focused on improving the quality of life for individuals and families in the environments in which they function -- Family and Consumer Sciences Extension; Family Studies; Nutrition and Food Science; and Merchandising, Apparel, and Textiles. There are currently 752 students enrolled in bachelors degree programs; 61 students enrolled in master's degree programs; and 15 students enrolled in the doctoral degree program.

The school conducts multidisciplinary research related to improving the human condition in the various environments in which individuals and families function. Faculty research projects include the following topics:

Family Studies – social and economic issues of aging, parenting and fatherhood; marriage and remarriage; divorce and post-divorce families; economic self-sufficiency and well-being of women and families; intergenerational transfer of wealth; social and health care policy; couple conflict and abuse; policy issues affecting low-income families.

Merchandising, Apparel, and Textiles – economics, quality and consumer aspects of merchandising, apparel, and textiles.

Nutrition and Food Science – vitamin and mineral metabolism; obesity; diabetes; community nutrition; product development; consumer food patterns; hospitality marketing; consumer trends; and information technology.

The Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Program collaborates with 120 county extension programs across Kentucky by conducting outreach programs focused on improving the quality of individual and family life by addressing areas including Family Life; Child Development, Nutrition; Food Product Development; Food Safety; Family Resource Management; Financial Planning; Housing; Household Environmental Issues; Health; Drug Endangered Children; and Domestic Abuse.

Ms. Tobin thanked Dr. Grisham-Brown and Dr. Vail for the informational updates.

AACR 1: Candidates for Degrees – Resolution requesting authorization for the President to confer degrees to each individual identified on the attached list, upon certification that the requirements for those degrees have been satisfactorily completed. A motion was made by Ann Haney to approve the recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 2: Change in Name of the Department of Geology – Resolution requesting approval to change the name of the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Geology to the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, effective in the spring 2006 semester. A motion was made by Barbara Young to approve the recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 3: Change in Name of the College of Agriculture – Resolution requesting approval to change the name of the College of Agriculture to the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, effective July 1, 2006. A motion was made by Barbara Young to approve the recommendation. After extensive discussion of the recommendation to change the name of the college, the motion was defeated. Roy Moore moved the recommendation be tabled for further discussion and potential action at the January meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra Tobin, Chair
Academic Affairs Committee