April 27, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert S. Gold
   Dean, College of Health and Human Performance

FROM: Phyllis Peres
      Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to rename the Department of Family Studies as the Department of Family Science (PCC log no. 06029)

On April 11, President Mote gave final approval to your proposal to rename the Department of Family Studies as the Department of Family Science. Attached please find a copy of the approved proposal.

The changes are formally effective July 1, 2007.

CWR/

Enclosure

c: Richard Ellis, Chair, Senate PCC
   Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
   Mary Giles, University Senate
   Barbara Hope, Data Administration
   Anne Turkos, Archives
   Sally Koblinsky, Chair, Department of Family Science
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED: 1/19/07

COLLEGE/SCHOOL: HLHP

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM: Department of Family Studies

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD___ DELETE____ CHANGE___X_

Change the name of the Department of Family Studies to the Department of Family Science.

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

See the attached rationale.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

No new resources are required.

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APPROVAL SIGNATURES DATE
1. Department Committee Chair  /s/ Leli A. Lesli  1/19/07
2. Department Chair  /s/ Sally A. Kollmeyer  1/19/07
3. College/School PCC Chair  /s/ Amy Baker  1/22/07
4. Dean  /s/  1/24/07
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)  /s/  2/14/07
6. Chair, Senate PCC  /s/RFC  3/2/07
7. Chair of Senate  /s/ Sylvester J. Gates, Jr.  4/27/07
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs Provost  /s/ Chylicia Heres  4/27/07

PCC LOG NO. 06029
MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2007

To: C. D. Mote, Jr.
President

From: S. James Gates, Chair of the University Senate

Subject: Proposal to Rename the Department of Family Studies as the Department of Family Science, Senate Document Number 06-07-45

I am pleased to forward for your consideration the attached report entitled, “Proposal to Rename the Department of Family Studies as the Department of Family Science.” The proposal was presented by Richard Ellis, Chair of the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee. The University Senate approved the proposal at its April 5, 2007 meeting.

We request that you inform the Senate Office of your decision as well as any subsequent action related to your conclusion.

Enclosure: Senate Document 06-07-45
SJG/MG/ld

Cc: Richard Ellis, Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee
William Destler, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
Phyllis Peres, Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs
Mary Giles, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
Ellin Scholnick, Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs
Sally Koblinsky, Chair, Department of Family Studies
Robert Gold, Dean, College of Health and Human Performance

Approved: C. D. Mote, Jr.
President

Date: 4/11/07
Proposal to Change the Name of the Department of Family Studies to the Department of Family Science

With plans to reorganize the College of Health and Human Performance and establish an accredited School of Public Health, there is a need to change the name of the Department of Family Studies to the Department of Family Science. The proposed name change is consistent with current directions within our discipline to focus on family science in the nomenclature of academic departments, major disciplinary associations (e.g., American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences), and federal government programs (e.g., Family Science and Human Development program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service). The Chronicle of Higher Education lists positions for faculty within the family discipline under the category “family sciences.”

The proposed name change to Family Science reflects the Department’s emphasis on empirical research aimed at helping families improve their health, financial security, and quality of life. Scientific research, evaluation, and evidence-based practice are integral to the department’s academic programs, scholarship, and service.

The Department of Family Studies currently offers a Bachelor of Science degree, a Master of Science degree, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree. All undergraduates complete empirical research and make formal presentations of their projects at departmental research forums held twice each academic year. Departmental graduate students are actively engaged in research, applying a broad range of scientific methods from family science, demography, psychology, sociology, health sciences, nutrition, economics, public policy, and related behavioral sciences to research and professional practice. Family Studies faculty publish their research in key social science journals within the interdisciplinary family science discipline, and have grants from governmental agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as from private foundations.

To meet accreditation requirements of the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the proposed UMCP School of Public Health must offer at least three doctoral programs. Addressing this requirement, the Department of Family Studies has developed a new Ph.D. program in Maternal and Child Health (currently under review). The proposed new department name, Family Science, more closely resembles the names of departments in major Schools of Public Health that offer Maternal and Child Health programs (e.g., Population and Family Health Sciences at Johns Hopkins; Community Health Science at UCLA and University of Illinois at Chicago).

To select a new name, the Family Studies Department sought input from its faculty, staff, graduate students, undergraduate student advisory committee, and alumni. This process was accompanied by a review of the names of similar departments in other institutions, particularly Land Grant institutions with strong family science programs. Examples of these department names are listed below:

Land Grant Institutions
Family Social Science: University of Minnesota
Human Development and Family Science: Ohio State University, Oklahoma State University
Human Development and Family Sciences: Oregon State University
Family and Consumer Sciences: University of Nebraska, University of Hawaii, University of Idaho, University of Wyoming, New Mexico State University, North Carolina A & T University
Child Development and Family Science: North Dakota State University
Family, Youth, and Community Sciences: University of Florida
Human Development, Consumer and Family Sciences: South Dakota State University
Non-Land Grant Institutions

Family Sciences: Texas Woman’s University
Counseling and Family Sciences: Loma Linda University
Family Environmental Sciences: California State University/Northridge

The only UMCP aspirational peer with a family science program, the University of Illinois, combines human development and family science in a department titled Human and Community Development.

The department name selected by the overwhelming majority of Family Studies faculty, staff, students, and alumni was the Department of Family Science. There was also some support for the Department of Family Social Science and the Department of Family Health and Social Science, but the Department elected to avoid using the word “social” in its title because this term is used by the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

The proposed new name, Family Science, may also help to clear up confusion about the nature of the department’s academic work. Many undergraduate and graduate students have reported that the current name, Family Studies, is suggestive of programs in the Arts and Humanities (e.g., American Studies) rather than in the health and behavioral sciences. Prospective graduate students for our proposed Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Ph.D. program may have difficulty locating our program in a department of Family Studies. A name change should increase our competitiveness in recruiting students to an MCH program in the proposed School of Public Health.

In summary, we propose that our current name, the Department of Family Studies be changed to the Department of Family Science, effective July 1, 2007. The new name better reflects current nomenclature in our discipline, reduces confusion about the nature of our instruction and research, and more accurately communicates our mission to apply scientific methods to the solution of contemporary family problems.