

February 27, 2004

A. Lorris Betz  
Interim President and  
Senior Vice President for Health Sciences  
203 Park  
Campus

RE: Proposal to Change Name of Gerontology Center to Center on Aging

Dear Interim President Betz:

At its meeting of February 23, the Graduate Council unanimously voted to approve a proposal to change the name of the Gerontology Center to the Center on Aging. The Gerontology Center is an interdisciplinary unit housed within the College of Nursing. It is anticipated that the new name will more accurately reflect the variety of programs offered by the Center.

The Center offers a graduate certificate in Gerontology and an M.S. in Gerontology. The degree and certificate names will remain the same.

A copy of the proposal is attached for your approval and transmittal to the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,

David W. Chapman  
Assoc. V.P. for Graduate Studies  
Dean, The Graduate School

Encl.

XC: David W. Pershing, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Maureen Keefe, Dean, College of Nursing  
Sue Huether, Interim Director, Gerontology Center

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Lorris Betz, Senior Vice President Health Science  
David Chapman, Associate Vice President Academic Affairs

FROM: Maureen R. Keefe, Dean - College of Nursing  
Sue Huether, Interim Director – Gerontology Center

DATE: December 17, 2003/Amended: February 24, 2004

SUBJECT: Center Name Change

Attached you will find a request for a **Name Change** for the Gerontology Center. The Gerontology Center is housed within the College of Nursing however it serves the entire University of Utah and is an interdisciplinary unit with education, service and research on aging. The Gerontology Center proposes to change its name to the “Center on Aging”. This change would better reflect the array of programs and the content area for students, faculty and the community. The Center currently offers a Masters in Gerontology and a Gerontology Certificate. These degree names and course descriptions would remain the same. A variety of interdisciplinary outreach programs also serve the community. The new name would provide better indicate the umbrella structure with articulated programs and initiatives within the center.

Discussion of the name change has occurred at all levels: faculty, students and administrative leadership including the Center Advisory Board, Senior VP Dr. Betz and VP for Research Dr. Gestland. The Gerontology Center, Advisory Board and College of Nursing is requesting this name change as part of the redesign for the future of the Center. We look forward to the review of this request, and stand ready to provide any additional information that may be needed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## **PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR THE GERONTOLOGY CENTER**

### **1. Request:**

The Gerontology Center proposes to change its name to the “Center on Aging.” The Center name change is proposed with unanimous support from the Gerontology Advisory Board and support by faculty and students.

### **2. Rationale:**

A name change is proposed because the title “Gerontology Center” no longer reflects the scope of the work and future strategic direction for the array of programs within the center. The Center currently offers a Masters of Gerontology and Undergraduate and Graduate Gerontology Certificates. In addition a variety of outreach programs also serve the community. The new name “Center on Aging” would better indicate the offerings of the center and potential articulation with other programs and centers within the university. The new strategic direction for the Center will emphasize the research agenda in addition to the strong education and practice/service missions.

The term “gerontology” refers to the discipline and the study of phenomena associated with aging. This term appears to be confusing for some potential, students, donors and community members as they search for information and programs related to the topic of aging and elder care. The more descriptive term “aging” will make the Center and its information and programs more accessible and available to the public. The rationale for this name change has come from the fact that the new name will truly reflect what the center is, as well as the current mission and future strategic direction. The specific degrees and prefix for course offerings will continue to carry the gerontology designation. This trend is reflected across the country with a blend of the discipline of gerontology with programs on aging. The name change is timely and will enhance our ability to recruit and attract high quality students and faculty to our programs within the Center.

### **3. Practice at the University of Utah and elsewhere:**

In a recent review of academic aging programs, the titles “center” and “institute” are often used interchangeably. Both the terms “Gerontology” and “Aging” Center are prevalent within the university. A search of major public institutions with aging centers revealed a variety of options, terms and titles.

Examples of some titles of other centers on aging include:

Center on Aging – Duke University

Center on Aging - Gerontology Programs - University of Maryland

Center on Aging – University of California, Berkeley

Center on Aging – University of Chicago

Center on Aging – University of Indiana  
Center on Aging - University of Iowa  
Center on Aging - University of Kentucky  
Center on Aging – University of New Mexico  
Galachia Center on Aging - Kansas State University  
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging - University of Kentucky  
Center for Healthy Aging - Oregon Health Science University  
Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development - Duke University  
Institute for Health and Aging - UCSF  
Institute on Aging - Portland State University  
Institute on Aging - University of North Carolina  
Institute on Aging - University of Pennsylvania  
Institute on Aging - University of Washington  
Institute on Aging - University of Wisconsin Madison  
Institute of Gerontology - Wayne State University  
Center for Gerontological Studies - University of Florida Gainesville  
Department of Gerontology - University of Nebraska  
Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center - USC  
Gerontology Center - Boston University  
Gerontology Center - Pennsylvania State University  
Gerontology Center - University of Georgia  
Gerontology Institute - Georgia State University  
Gerontology Programs - University of Maryland

Examples of titles of other centers at the University of Utah include:

The American West Center  
Bureau of Economic and Business Research  
Center for international Business Education and Research  
Center for Mine Land Redevelopment  
Center for Natural and Technological Hazards  
Center for Public Policy and Administration  
Child and Family Development Center  
Environmental Studies Program  
Gerontology Center  
Scott M. Matheson Center for Health Care Studies  
University of Utah Archaeological Center  
University of Utah Seismograph Stations  
Utah Addiction Center  
Utah Education Policy Center  
Utah Engineering Experiment Station  
Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment

**4. Changes in precise names of degrees offered:** None

**5. Changes in catalog prefix descriptions, course designations, etc:** None

**6. Letters of Support:** The College of Nursing is currently a single department college. This proposal was approved by the Gerontology Advisory Board on February 4, 2003. This board consists of the Deans from the College's of Social Work, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Pharmacy and Health as well as the Director of VA Medical Center Geriatric Research and Education Center. Support letters from the members of the Advisory Board are included in Appendix D. This name change was endorsed by the Gerontology faculty, received unanimous approval from the College of Nursing, College Council on April 18, 2003 and approved by Sr. Vice President Lorris Betz on December 17, 2003 and sent forward for action by the Graduate Council.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: University of Utah, College of Nursing Organizational Chart

Appendix B: Gerontology Center Mission Statement and Vision

Appendix C: Letters of Support

***APPENDIX A: COLLEGE OF NURSING ORGANIZATIONAL CHART***

## ***APPENDIX B: GERONTOLOGY CENTER MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION***

### ***MISSION***

***The Gerontology Center supports the mission and vision of the University of Utah, the Health Sciences Center and the College of Nursing and serves the public by promoting optimal aging across the life course and intergenerational relationships for research, scholarship, service and clinical care.***

- We educate competent and caring leaders, educators, administrators, researchers and a variety of professional service providers through interdisciplinary programs for the state of Utah and beyond.***
- We advance knowledge through innovative interdisciplinary research and scholarship and translate our knowledge into applications that help people deal with issues related to aging.***
- We anticipate and respond to the needs of our communities through interdisciplinary outreach, advocacy and service.***

### ***VISION***

***An interdisciplinary center distinguished by excellence and leadership.***

***APPENDIX C: LETTERS OF SUPPORT***