



26 August 2008

David W. Pershing
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
205 Park
Campus

Dear Vice President Pershing:

At its meeting of 25 August 2008, the Graduate Council voted to approve a proposal to change the name of Master of Family Ecology to Master of Human Development and Social Change within the Department of Family and Consumer Studies in the College of Social and Behavioral Science.

The term "family ecology" is outdated and doesn't accurately reflect the scope of the Masters program. Department of Family and Consumer Studies faculty unanimously support the name change, with Human Development and Social Change encompassing a broader yet more reflective scope. The proposed name also follows national trends in the discipline.

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

Sincerely,

David S. Chapman
Associate VP for Graduate Studies
Dean, The Graduate School



DATE: April 4, 2008

TO: David Chapman, Graduate School

FROM: J. Steven Olt, ~~Dean~~ College of Social and Behavioral Science

SUBJECT: Support for FCS Master's Degree Name Change

Faculty within the Family and Consumer Studies (FCS) department have proposed a Master's Degree Name Change from "Family Ecology" to "Human Development and Social Policy". I am in support of this change.

As the attached paperwork suggests, the current name, "Family Ecology" does not accurately reflect the focus of the Master's program and is somewhat outdated. "Human Development and Social Policy" (HDSP) better communicates an interdisciplinary approach within this program.

I enthusiastically support this proposal and hope that the Graduate School will move swiftly through the approval process to solidify this change.

**Family and Consumer Studies (FCS) Master's Degree Name Change:
"Family Ecology" to "Human Development and Social Policy"**

SECTION I: The Request

The request is to change the name of the master's degree offered by the Department of Family and Consumer Studies. The proposed change is from "Family Ecology" to "Human Development and Social Policy."

SECTION II: Need

The present name of the master's degree – family ecology – does not fully describe the current program of graduate study in the department. Over the last decade, the changing composition and interests of the FCS faculty have led to significant changes in the content of graduate courses. The core courses, for example, are no longer focused exclusively on the family, and a significant social policy emphasis has been added to each of them. Furthermore, the word "ecology" has many divergent connotations and has fallen out of use as a degree name at other institutions in departments similar to FCS.

There was unanimous agreement among FCS faculty in support of the proposed name change to Human Development and Social Policy (HDSP). Knowledge of human development informs social policy; in turn, social policies influence the contexts of human development. The proposed name better reflects the intent of the FCS master's degree to provide students with an interdisciplinary understanding of important issues and policies in family, community and societal life. One other institution currently offers a master's and doctoral degree in Human Development and Social Policy – Northwestern University. The FCS faculty considers the Northwestern program an excellent and highly successful model.

Finally, the proposed name change will more effectively communicate the goals of the FCS graduate program to prospective students and provide graduates of the program with a degree that has broader relevance in the job market than one in family ecology.

SECTION III. Institutional Impact

Changing the name of the FCS master's degree will not adversely affect the faculty, facilities, or existing administrative structures in the department. One additional graduate course with an emphasis on human development is being planned, however, this curricular change was initiated before the name change.

The name change will not adversely affect enrollments in other departments or instructional programs at the University of Utah. The Department of Family and

Consumer Studies has always had a strong focus on human development, and the social policy content in FCS graduate courses has been present for approximately 10 years. It is anticipated that the HDSP master's program will enhance student and faculty collaboration between the FCS department and other university programs that are engaged in more detailed policy analysis (e.g., the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program and the Institute of Public and International Affairs (IPIA)).

SECTION IV: Finances

There are no significant costs associated with this name change. Advertising and informational materials (e.g., the FCS website) are usually updated every year and will simply be changed when and if the name change is approved.

10.4.1 Signature Page to Accompany Proposal Providing Board Notification

Institution Submitting Proposal: University of Utah

College, School or Division affected: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Department(s) or Area(s) affected: Department of Family and Consumer Studies

Change Description: M.S. in Human Development and Social Policy

Proposed Beginning Date: Upon approval

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Cheryl Wright, Department Chair

[Signature], Dean

_____, Chief Academic Officer

_____, President

_____, Date

David S. Cooper 8/26/08 Dean, The Graduate School

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March 6, 2008

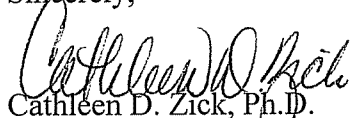
Cheryl Wright, Ph.D., Chair
Family and Consumer Studies
225 South 1400 East, Room 228
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dear Professor Wright:

As the director of the University of Utah's Masters in Public Policy (MPP), I support the proposed name change of the Department of Family and Consumer Studies' (FCS) masters program from Family Ecology to Human Development and Social Policy. In my estimation, the new name would *not* suggest duplication across FCS and the MPP program. Rather it would connote the complementarity of the two programs.

The MPP program is designed to provide students with the requisite skills needed to undertake needs assessments, analyze policy alternatives, and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of public policies. In addition, elective course work in the MPP program allows students to gain expertise in a substantive content area (e.g., economic policy, environmental policy). MPP students who are interested in family/social policy are encouraged to take elective course work in FCS. This name change will allow MPP students to identify elective policy options in FCS more readily. If the name change results in FCS recruiting more graduate students with an interest in social policy, it may also lead some of those students to take elective course work in the MPP program. Thus, I believe that the name change could generate modest synergies across the two units.

Sincerely,



Cathleen D. Zick, Ph.D.
Director, Masters in Public Policy
Professor, Family and Consumer Studies