



The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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Constituent Universities
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Fayetteville State
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Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

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North Carolina
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North Carolina
at Charlotte

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at Greensboro

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North Carolina
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University of
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North Carolina
School of Science
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee for Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Alan Mabe *AM*

DATE: October 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Proposal to Establish a College of Health Sciences at ASU

Appalachian State University has proposed the reorganization of its current colleges and departments to create a new College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions. The following departments will be relocated from other colleges to constitute the new college: Health, Leisure, and Exercise Science; Nursing; Social Work; Foods and Nutrition; Communication Disorders; and Health Management. For the 2007-08 academic year these departments produced 308 graduates.

The proposal has gone through campus processes and the campus secured an outside consultant to review the proposal and provide advice. This culminated with Board of Trustee approval of the proposed reorganization in September 2008.

This college will require an administrative structure and an additional dean to manage the new college.

This reorganization seems very plausible and fits well with the UNC Tomorrow initiative to improve the health of our citizens. Bringing the health related programs together will benefit each of the programs as well as provide a focus for all health related outreach in the region. The number of department and programs constitute a large enough mass to justify having a college structure.

The Chancellor and Provost made it clear that this proposal for reorganization is not based on the availability of new resources.

It is recommended that the reorganization be approved and that ASU establish a new College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions.

Proposal to Establish a College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions at Appalachian State University

Approved by Appalachian State Board of Trustees September 19, 2008

Summary:

Appalachian State University proposes to establish a new administrative structure named the College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions, which will bring into a single unit several existing health-related programs currently located in three existing colleges. The College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions will include the following departments and programs (see attached organizational chart): Department of Health, Leisure, and Exercise Science (currently located in the College of Fine and Applied Arts), Department of Nursing (currently located in the College of Fine and Applied Arts), Department of Social Work (currently located in the College of Arts and Sciences), Foods and Nutrition programs (currently located in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Fine and Applied Arts); Communication Disorders programs (currently located in the Department of Language, Reading and Exceptionalities in the Reich College of Education); and Health Management programs (currently located in the Department of Management in the Walker College of Business). Also, new health-related degree programs will be developed and housed in the college.

The creation of the College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions will better enable Appalachian to fulfill its responsibility to contribute to the UNC Tomorrow initiative to "... lead in improving the health and wellness of all the people and meet the needs of the state" by combining our health science faculty and programs in a common academic structure.

Historical Background:

Four colleges were formed when Appalachian State became a university in 1967: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business (now the Walker College of Business), College of Education (now the Reich College of Education), and College of Fine and Applied Arts. In 1988, the School of Music (now Hayes School of Music) moved from the College of Fine and Applied Arts and was established as an autonomous School. Most recently, a University College was established in 2007, which combined the academic programs in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (which was dissolved) with academic support services (e.g., Advising and Orientation, Writing Center, Learning Assistance Program). The creation of University College was resource neutral with the units reporting to an existing Vice Provost position.

In 2005, the Board of Governors approved the establishment of a degree program in Nursing, and in 2006 the Board approved a Masters of Social Work. Accordingly, Departments of Nursing and Social Work were created to deliver these programs.

In 2005, Appalachian established The Institute for Health and Human Services to increase clinical internships and other applied training opportunities for students, and to promote research, training opportunities, and service collaborations with other disciplines, institutions and community partners.

Rationale:

One of the seven findings in the Final Report of the University of North Carolina Tomorrow Commission is “UNC should lead in improving the health and wellness of all the people and communities in our state.” A major recommendation in that report is to educate more health professionals; the report indicated that “... the state is below the national average for most health care workers...” Suggested strategies included the following:

- Eliminate the barriers that prevent our universities and community colleges from training needed health care professionals.
- Create/support regional education programs in the health professions so that graduates can easily practice in underserved communities.
- Expand programs that emphasize community-based training.
- Increase students’ exposure to community-based practices.
- Increase numbers of health-profession faculty for both UNC institutions and community colleges, especially in the fields of nursing and allied health.
- Target recruiting efforts, financial aid, and residency and clinical practicum opportunities to increase racial and geographic diversity among both health-care professionals and health-profession faculty.

The campuses Phase I UNC Tomorrow Report indicated how each of these suggestions would be accomplished with the creation of a College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions. The new College will increase the visibility for health care programs to better attract students, create efficiencies by combining advising and clinical placement services, provide the expertise for the development of new health care programs, and facilitate collaborative agreements and programs with regional health agencies. Discussions are underway with Appalachian Regional Health Care System, Wake Forest Medical School, and Carolinas Health Care System to use the College to coordinate the placement of third and fourth year medical students in medical practices in the region. Access to medical information would be enhanced for both students and professionals in the area by collaboration between Northwest AHEC and Appalachian library services, and creating an information commons in the new College.

Process:

At the beginning of the 2007 Fall Semester, Provost Aeschleman began discussion with faculty, staff, and administrators concerning the feasibility of establishing a college that would unite health-related programs. Subsequently, based on an analysis of the composition of “Health Schools and Colleges” at campuses both within the state and nationally, the six programs identified in the Summary were selected as potential units for inclusion in a new college. Subsequently, the Provost discussed the proposal with each of the six Departments, Deans Council, the Council of Chairs, and the Faculty Senate. Dr. Harold Jones, Dean of the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was hired as a consultant to determine campus readiness for the establishment a new health college. His conclusion based on an analysis of our programs, faculty, and students, including a two day site visit was “Based upon these discussions and the strengths of your current programs, I strongly believe that you are extremely well-positioned to move forward with the creation of a college of health sciences.”

Indeed Dr. Michael P. Lischke, Director of Northwest AHEC indicated in a presentation to Appalachians Board of Trustees that the creation of a College combining Appalachian's existing health professions programs would rank it among the largest Health Colleges in the system.

The proposal for the new College was discussed during an open forum discussion of the new Strategic Plan and the campuses Phase I Response to UNC Tomorrow. Last spring the faculty in each of the six programs voted to be included in the new College. This fall, a task force was established to develop functional and operational policies for the College. The Board of Trustees at Appalachian State University approved the proposal to establish a College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions on September 19, 2008.

Student and Faculty Data:

During the 2007-08 academic year, 308 degrees were awarded by the six departments/programs targeted for the college, and those units generated 13,364 student credit hours. Currently, 72 faculty members comprise the six units, with 39 having tenure or tenure track appointments. Over the past five years those faculty generated approximately \$7,500,000 in sponsored program support.

Additional programs that will be evaluated relative to the needs in the region and state include, an M.S. in Nurse Education, an M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling, a B.S. in Health Information Management, an M.S. in Health Informatics, and an M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Cost:

The two major costs for the creation of the College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions are a new building and the administrative structure for the college including a new dean. The new building is estimated to cost \$50,000,000, and \$4,200,000 to plan the building was allocated in the 2008-09 budget. The initial administrative structure is estimated to require additional annual recurring costs of \$936,062. These costs include \$886,062 to support the salary and benefits for dean, associate dean, and assistant dean positions, and four additional positions for clerical, degree advising and record keeping duties. The figure includes a non-personnel operating budget of \$50,000. These administrative positions are necessary to provide the expertise and leadership to enable Appalachian to help meet the critical state health needs identified and described in the UNC Tomorrow Final Report.

