

***Family & Consumer Sciences Program Viability Taskforce
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2005, 3 p.m. ET***

Task Force Participants:

Billie Collier, HEU Graduate Commission; Lynda Harriman, Oklahoma State University, Extension representative to this taskforce; Lynette Olson, Chair, Higher Education Unit; Frances Shipley, Council of Administrators of FCS; Virginia Vincenti, AAFCS, Past President; Gay Nell McGinnis, AAFCS Credentialing Director, Public Policy & Professional Development; and Steve Jorgensen, Chair-Elect, AAFCS HEU.

Goal: To proactively and collaboratively strengthen FCS higher education programs.

Lynette Olson and Steve Jorgensen agreed to take the minutes.

We reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 25, 2005 submitted by Billie Collier. A question was raised about changing the name of the group to Task Force on Program Advancement. Do we need to go further than the task force to approve the name change? It was agreed that all constituencies have accepted the concept of this new title, and so it was accepted.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes.

Note: Mary Pritchard needs to be added to the task force as the representative from CAFCS. Patsy Brannon will be the new representative from BOHS.

Old Business:

1. Examine purpose of the Task Force on Program Advancement

This item was tabled from the last conference call. During this meeting we discussed the goal as stated above and agreed that this is still appropriate.

2. Update on website research (Barbara)

Though Barbara was not present on the call, Ginny reported that the part she worked on has been sent to Barbara. This item will be tabled until the next call.

3. Cost of previous conference calls (Lynette)

This item is tabled until the next call.

4. Update on survey of criteria for success (Steve)

Steve has done all he can until he receives the database from Barbara. He has hired a graduate assistant to begin working in mid-May. They will do a pilot study to develop the instrument. They hope for the instrument to be out by mid-summer. It will be simple and will be submitted electronically as a web-based survey of all programs identified in the inventory being assembled by Barbara Stewart.

5. Update on website (send information to Frances Shipley)
(Frances)

Frances reported that she had communicated with Dorothy Mitstifer about the web site and that Lynette and Steve would serve as points for the development process. The \$200 payment from HEU has been received. Items should be sent to Lynette and Steve to coordinate this process.

Gay Nell reported that AAFCS has approved linking this web site. Frances asked about having a link from CAFCS as well. She and Gay Nell will follow up.

New Business:

1. New representative from 1890s institutions

Ginny will try to identify someone to serve on the task force to represent these institutions.

2. Literature review on program viability

This has been discussed in the past but we never came to a conclusion about following through on this.

On a related item, Ginny wondered where we could locate a record of those programs that have been eliminated or restructured in some way. It was suggested that a list might have to come from the memory bank of various individuals. We discussed the University of Minnesota changes that were just announced. A number of other units were discussed, and various steps to strengthen current programs on our respective campuses were shared by Task Force members.

We discussed the ongoing problem of changing the field name from the old “home economics” to family and consumer sciences in various areas such as: CUPA, The Chronicle of Higher Education, testing agencies, etc. Billie noted that there have been attempts to do this in the past but it has met with resistance. These groups are reluctant to change anything.

It was agreed that we will seek out success stories from other campuses to post on the web site. Steve will contact Terry Bray, Dean at Oregon State, for her story that was shared at the BOHS/CAFCS meeting in February. How can we proactively preempt efforts to disband our academic units? We need to work on orienting new administrators to the profession, and establish meaningful collaborations across divisions on our respective campuses. Steve will also writ to Karen Williams, at the University of Wyoming, in an attempt to get Wyoming at the table. Frances will contact Virginia Moxley at Kansas State University to get advice about seeking changes in the profession’s names in the key places cited above (e.g., CUPA).

Next meeting/call date? ***May 12, 2:00 PM Central Daylight Time***