

**FCS Program Viability Task Force  
Teleconference  
April 16, 2004**

**Participating:** Vincenti, Collier, Crase, Kellett, Olson, Richardson, Smith, Stewart

**Updates**

1. Iowa State University: Vincenti sent a letter to the President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and others supporting keeping the FCS programs intact in the contemplated merger with Education. The letter will be circulated to Task Force members. Human Development and Family Studies has invited Vincenti to visit ISU and share background information on the history and philosophy of the profession that can be a basis for discussions of the future of FCS in their situation. She will include program viability and the work of the Task Force.
2. Michigan State University: Vincenti sent a letter to the President, Provost, the College of Human Development and the university development officers, all members of the Board of Trustees and others, emphasizing the value of integrated human ecology programs. The letter will be circulated to Task Force members. Vincenti also called each trustee, four of whom returned the calls with positive responses and a commitment to meet with the Provost. One asked for information on alternative organizational models for structuring human ecology programs given the budget challenges MSU is facing.
3. Southern Utah is examining restructuring; an email from the institution to the various organizations of the professions elicited a significant response.
4. Vincenti will give an invited talk to the Korean Home Economics Association on the status and future of FCS.

**Next Steps**

1. Develop resource materials.
  - a. Monograph pulling together ideas that have been presented and discussed
  - b. Manual of strategies for preserving FCS programs
  - c. Short bulleted summary of actions and important points to be considered
  - d. Response to MSU trustees
2. Use the research study currently being funded by AAFCS to document contributions of research and publications in FCS. It is now an organized bibliography, but will be a literature review that can be useful to institutions.
3. Prepare the panel presentation for Annual meeting, "From Surviving to Thriving: Family and Consumer Science Higher Education Programs." The panel presentation could be the basis of the monograph described above (1a). Plan for the Task Force to meeting following the panel session.
4. Solicit organizational models from HEU member institutions. Olson will draft a message and distribute it to Task Force members by April 21. Responses should be received by April 30. The solicitation, including a

timeline, will then be sent to HEU members. Stewart and Kellett will compile and analyze responses.