



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Office of
Academic Affairs

Proposal to Consolidate Human Development and Family Sciences Program with the College of Education and Consolidate the Design, Merchandising & Textiles Program with Best Aligned Academic Unit at the University of Wyoming

October 22, 2021

Under the auspices of University Regulation 2-13, the Provost and Executive Vice President here presents a proposal to:

1. Consolidate the Human Development and Family Sciences Program with the College of Education, and
2. Consolidate the Design, Merchandising & Textiles Program with Best Aligned Academic Unit

This proposal has as its heart, two guiding principles: first, that Human Development & Family Sciences, and Design, Merchandising & Textiles are fields of research and knowledge that are and should remain important and vibrant options at the University of Wyoming. Second that, at this time, it is not in the University's interest to serve that need through a stand-alone department. Instead, this proposal lays out an alternative structure for teaching, research, and service. Consistent with its first guiding principle, the proposal recommends transferring all faculty members in and associated budgets for the Human Development & Family Sciences program to the College of Education. All faculty in and associated budgets for the Design, Merchandising & Textiles program would move to the academic unit that is deemed most aligned with the discipline and expertise of the faculty.

Background

If current proposed recommendations to move the Early Childcare Education Center (ECEC) to the College of Education and the Nutrition program to the College of Health Sciences/Division of Kinesiology & Health are approved and implemented, as well as a pending retirement, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences will have five (5) tenure stream faculty and two (2) lecturers. The department offers overarching degrees that allow for programming in specific disciplines (e.g., Human Development & Family Sciences; and Design, Merchandising, & Textiles). This is not a sustainable or stable structure. The alignment of curriculum in these disciplines with degree programs in Education and possibly Visual Arts, as well as interdisciplinary degrees, minors and/or certificates with Agriculture and Life Sciences and possibly Business, would place the programs in Human Development & Family Sciences and Design, Merchandising & Textiles within academic units with common disciplinary interests and contribute to the formation of viable departmental structures.

In accordance with UW Regulation 2-13, the Provost will discuss this recommendation and seek feedback from the Academic Personnel, staff, and academic administrators in the impacted units, including College of Education, the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences, and other academic units as identified as possible academic homes for the Design, Merchandising & Textile Program. Further, the Provost will establish a 2-13 Review Committee comprised of impacted faculty, staff, students, and administrators from the Colleges that will review the proposal, seek feedback from internal and external stakeholders, and prepare teach-out plans as needed. Faculty senate, staff senate and ASUW will be invited to provide a representative on the committee.

After reviewing submitted comments and making any necessary revisions, the Provost will submit the revised proposal, including a recommendation and support materials to the President. The President in collaboration with the Faculty Senate will review the recommendation. The President shall make a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees to consolidate the program(s) within a maximum period of 120 days from the date of this request.

Any teach-out plans needed will be developed by the review committee to address the needs of current, perspective, and stopped-out students. Upon conclusion of their degrees, students currently enrolled in these programs will have the option to receive their degrees from the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources.

Tentative Timeline

October 22, 2021	Notice of Recommendation to Discontinue Programs (to President, with copies to Cabinet, Senates, Deans & Directors)
November 22, 2021	Final report from review committee due to Provost
November 23, 2021	Final recommendation to President, Senates, and Deans and Directors, for review and feedback
November 29, 2021	Faculty Senate Meeting*
December 13, 2021	Faculty Senate Meeting*
January 12-14, 2022	Recommendation to Board of Trustees for action

* It is anticipated that the President and Provost will meet with faculty senate during one of their regularly scheduled meetings. If the schedule does not permit, a special meeting may be needed for the President to review the recommendation with the senate.