November 19, 2012

Dr. Calvin Johnson, Interim Chancellor  
1200 North University Drive  
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Pine Bluff, AR 71601

Dr. James O. Garner, Jr.,  
Dean/Director  
School of Agriculture, Fisheries, &  
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Dr. Shandra Terrell Williams, Chair  
Department of Human Sciences  
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Dear Dr. Johnson, Dr. Garner, and Dr. Terrell Williams:

In its November 3, 2012 meeting, the Council For Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Department of Human Sciences at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. This action followed careful review and consideration of the Self-Study Report, the report of the site visit team, and the institution’s response to the site visit report.

The Council For Accreditation commends the Department of Human Sciences and faculty members for high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. Department of Human Sciences faculty members are dedicated, committed, and go the extra mile to meet the needs of the students. This sentiment was expressed by students, faculty members, and staff from supporting disciplines across campus.

2. The Interim Chair is to be commended for providing excellent direction and leadership during her recent assignment to Human Sciences, particularly in guiding the Unit through the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences accreditation process.

3. While internships or other experiential activities are required, students value the experiences and acknowledge the extra effort by faculty members to facilitate involvement in extraordinary learning activities.
4. The University and School administrators are to be commended for their continuous efforts to enhance the work and learning space and to provide state-of-the-art equipment for the Human Sciences Unit.

5. Constituent groups (i.e., alumni and internship supervisors) acknowledge the value of the Human Sciences programs and the preparation of students for professional careers.

6. The Unit core provides an opportunity for students in all program areas to interact and understand the integrative, synergistic nature of the profession and Body of Knowledge.

7. Faculty and students are significantly involved in the surrounding community, providing services while also enriching student learning.

8. The University has invested in revitalizing the dietetics program and regaining ACEND accreditation.

The Council for Accreditation makes the following recommendations to strengthen compliance with accreditation standards and to assist in further enhancement of the programs in the Department of Human Sciences:

1. Develop a plan to recruit and retain a critical mass of students to ensure sustainability of programs that are currently under-enrolled. [Criteria 1.2(4); 4.4(1)]

2. Strengthen the integration of the Body of Knowledge to ensure adequate inclusion in all program options. [Criteria 2.1(1); 2.1(2); 2.1(3)]

3. Increase the rigor of assessment, analyze program and student learning assessment data, and make use of results to improve learning activities, courses, and curricula. [Criterion 2.2(3)]

4. Describe the format and frequency of routinely reporting to the public reliable information about student performance and achievement (e.g., graduation rates, retention rates, student involvement in scholarly activities, stature of graduate career placement, displays and other recognition of student performance, graduate achievements in career placements, rates of graduate continuation in post-graduate programs of study). [Intent 2.2, Required Documentation d.]

5. Develop and implement a Unit-wide focused plan to assist faculty members to engage in research, outreach, and other scholarly/creative activities. [Criteria 3.1; 3.2; 4.1(3)]

6. Expand Unit activities to recruit a diverse student population. [Criterion 4.3(6)]
7. As enrollment increases and resources become available, carefully plan for faculty additions to allocate sufficient faculty for each program offering. [Criterion 4.3(1)]

Actions taken in response to these recommendations are to be described in the Unit’s first interim report which shall be submitted in year three (2015) of accreditation. You will receive notification of the specific date the report will be due to arrive in the Office of Accreditation for consideration in the Council’s subsequent meeting.

Accreditation is granted by the Council For Accreditation for a period of ten years. Any extension and/or provisional accreditation periods are counted as part of the ten year period. Therefore, this accreditation expires Fall 2022. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2021.

When accreditation is granted, the Unit is eligible to use the AAFCS Seal of Accreditation. This seal indicates that the Unit has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria and can be used in all communications, both print and electronic. You will be sent an electronic file containing the seal graphic with protocol for use information.

Members of the Council For Accreditation join us in congratulating you and the faculty on the quality of programs offered by the Department of Human Sciences. This comes with our good wishes for continued success of the programs.

With best wishes,

Valerie L. Giddings, Ph.D. Gay Nell McGinnis, CFCS, Director Chair, Council for Accreditation Credentialing, Professional Development, and Research