November 18, 2009

Dr. Michael F. Adams, President
The Administrative Building
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Dr. Laura Dunn Jolly, Dean
College of Family and Consumer Sciences
224 Dawson Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dr. Adams and Dr. Jolly:

In its November 7, 2009 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia. This action followed careful review and consideration of the Self-Study Report, the report of the site review team, and the institution’s response to the team’s report.

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

1. Dean Laura Jolly and the Family and Consumer Sciences administrative team are respected administrators who have earned the confidence and support of students, faculty members, and other administrators. Administrative team members are national leaders in their fields of expertise. Administrators, faculty members, and students at the University value and respect the College of Family and Consumer Sciences for contributions to academic excellence, research, and outreach. The College culture reflects interdisciplinary collaboration and respect among faculty members in the diverse subject matter specializations.

2. Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members are knowledgeable, innovative, committed, and caring. They have earned the admiration and respect of campus colleagues and students. Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members with a wide range of expertise are unified as a “community” of scholars who have opportunities and optimism. They are committed to the integrative, synergistic philosophy of Family and Consumer Sciences.
3. Students in Family and Consumer Sciences present themselves in a professional manner. They are enthusiastic about their program of study and their co-curricular experiences, and they appreciate their instructors and faculty advisors. Qualified undergraduate students participate in research projects with faculty members. An area of strength in the undergraduate curriculum is community service learning. Students appreciate diverse opportunities both nationally and internationally.

4. The professionalism and professional development of faculty members and students deserve commendation. Many faculty members hold membership in the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and they encourage students to attend state and national meetings. Undergraduate students are involved in field trips, internships, professional conferences, campus activities, and community events. Numerous students have held leadership positions in the student unit of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

5. The Unit is to be commended for providing course work and professional development experiences for non-traditional students.

6. Alumni support the College of Family and Consumer Sciences through philanthropic gifts, providing internships, and by employing graduates.

7. Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members have earned recognition as productive scholars. Their many achievements are represented by grants and contracts, publications in refereed journals and books, invited presentations, and media visibility. There is a consistent record of growth in grants and publications. Within their scholarly endeavors, faculty members often mentor both graduate and undergraduate students.

8. Facilities repair, renovation, and enhancement have been completed to provide a high quality learning environment including the availability of “smart” classrooms.

To assist in further development of the programs in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Council recommends the following to strengthen compliance with accreditation standards:

1. Develop a College of Family and Consumer Sciences Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2020 that provides a foundation for department, program, and curricula plans. Base priority goals for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences on University themes for excellence. Both general and specific goals and objectives should be clearly stated and measurable so that achievements can be documented effectively and consistently. [Criteria 1.1(2); 1.2(1); 4.1(1); 4.1(3)]

2. Develop a formal agreement with the College of Journalism and Mass Communication to assure timely access for Family and Consumer Sciences students to register for journalism and mass media courses. [Criterion 3.2(4)]
3. Assure that the teacher education curriculum is coordinated, assessments are completed, and students have a mentor. Employ a tenure track teacher educator with a joint appointment between the College of Education and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. [Intent 4.2; Criterion 4.3(1); 4.5(1)]

4. Continue to advocate for the proposed new building to meet the growing enrollment needs in the program. [Intent 8.1; Criteria 8.2(1)]

Actions taken in response to these recommendations are to be described in the unit’s next report. You will receive notification of the 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, 2019. The next self-study report will be due February 1, 2018.

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

Sincerely,

Hazel Forsythe, Ph.D., Chair
Council for Accreditation

Gay Nell McGinnis, CFCS, Director
Credentialing, Professional Development, and Public Policy