April 15, 2013

Dr. William L. Perry, President  
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Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL  61920

Dr. Mayhar Izadi, Dean  
Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences  
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600 Lincoln Avenue  
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Dr. Karla J. Kennedy-Hagan, Chair  
School of Family and Consumer Sciences  
1030 Klehm Hall  
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Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL  61920

Dear Dr. Perry, Dr. Izadi, and Dr. Kennedy-Hagan:

In its April 5, 2013 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the School of Family and Consumer Sciences at Eastern Illinois University. 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 School of Family and Consumer Sciences and faculty members for high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. Central administrators expressed understanding of and strong support for the mission of the Unit.

2. Building on previous experiences as Assistant Chair, the newly appointed Unit Chair is to be commended for being a highly skilled and effective leader who has the respect of University administrators, Unit faculty members, students, alumni, and internship supervisors.

3. Faculty members have ample opportunities to participate in Unit governance and influence academic policies through the School of Family and Consumer Sciences committees and institution-wide councils, committees, and legislative bodies.

4. Faculty members were early adopters of distance education. The Unit offers distance education courses and programs supported by qualified faculty members who meet the needs of adult learners and are accessible to students.
Faculty members are held in high esteem by students for their passion for the profession and their commitment to engage students in undergraduate research.

The Unit has an effective, productive relationship with the Booth Library which meets the needs of faculty, students, and the University community.

Several active student organizations provide opportunities for students to develop and expand leadership skills.

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 School of Family and Consumer Sciences:

1. Ensure that the methods used for curriculum and program assessment lead to data which address the student learning outcomes. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(4)]

2. Maintain continuity and consistency in the Core Courses by utilizing the framework provided through teaching guides, assessment plans, and adopted texts. Ensure data submission by all faculty members. [Criterion 2.2(2)]

3. To close the loop in the assessment process, use the assessment data to make informed decisions regarding the improvement of teaching and learning processes and reporting student performance and achievement to the internal and external publics. [Criterion 2.2(3)]

4. Leverage stakeholder (ie: advisory boards, alumni, etc.) involvement in recruitment and marketing student performance and achievement to internal and external publics. [Criterion 1.2(5); 2.2(3)]

5. Review and assess relevance, value, and substance of the formerly required Core Portfolio in the curricula. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(2); 2.2(3)]

6. Develop student learning outcomes specific to FCS 4275: Undergraduate Internship, and refine the assessment of this course to address the student learning outcomes. [Criteria 2.3(2); 2.3(4)]

7. Consistent with teaching responsibilities, encourage all faculty members to pursue appropriate research and scholarly activities. [Criteria 3.1(1); 4.1(3)]

8. Develop Unit goals, policies, and procedures consistent with University goals to enhance student, staff, and faculty diversity in the Unit. [Criteria 4.3(4); 4.3(5); 4.3(6); 4.3(7); 4.4(8)]

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 (2016) 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 Spring 2022. The next Self-Study Report will be due February 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 School of Family and Consumer 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