November 29, 2011

Dr. Al Bowman, President
421 Hovey Hall
Campus Box 1000
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-1000

Dr. Jeffrey A. Wood, Dean
College of Applied Science & Technology
103 Turner Hall
Campus Box 5000
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-5060

Dr. Randy Winter, Interim Chair
110 Turner Hall
Campus Box 5060
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-5060

Dear President Bowman, Dean Wood, and Interim Chair Winter:

In its November 6, 2011 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at Illinois State 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 commends the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and faculty members for high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. The mission and goals of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences support those of the College of Applied Sciences and Technology and the University and are reflective of the philosophy of the Family and Consumer Sciences discipline.

2. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the College of Applied Sciences and Technology are committed to accreditation. The DPD and DI programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetic Education (CADE). The Interior and Environmental Design program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), the Human Development and Family Resources Family and Consumer Sciences Education program is a part of the accreditation by NCATE, and the department is seeking continued accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.
3. College and University administration are supportive of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and recognize this Unit’s role in the University’s mission. Given the financial condition of the state of Illinois and the University, inasmuch as resources have been available, the Department has continued to receive support for new faculty positions, professional development, travel, and update of facilities.

4. The Interim Chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is an effective manager who is supported by members of the faculty.

5. The age, gender, ethnicity, educational background, and professional experiences of faculty members are diverse.

6. The faculty is student-centered and approachable. Faculty members are good teachers, are actively involved in scholarly activities, and do an excellent job of facilitating student participation in professional meetings, research symposia, and discipline-specific competitions.

7. Demand for the enrollment in Family and Consumer Sciences sequences exceeds the capacity. Thus, enrollment is limited, resulting in a student cohort that is highly qualified academically and motivated to achieve.

8. While students identify with their sequence more than with Family and Consumer Sciences, in general, they are able to verbalize the integrative, synergistic nature of the Family and Consumer Sciences profession.

9. The students are enthusiastic about their sequences. Students are articulate and embrace the idea of civic involvement and life-long learning.

10. The required professional practice course provides a culminating capstone activity in the professional setting where students put theory into practice. For many, this experience leads to post-graduation employment.

11. The renovated facilities are attractive and well-maintained.

12. Community support for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is strong. Faculty and student interaction with the community is commendable.

13. The support from Department alumni and constituents is strong and should continue to be a focus for development, student involvement, and internships.

14. The Department is to be commended for their effective collaboration and cooperation with other departments.

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

1. Conduct a national search for the Chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences as soon as possible. An administrator who has a background in the broad field of Family and Consumer Sciences and in one or more of its specialized disciplines is needed. [Criterion 1.4(5)]
2. Given the size, diversity, and needs of the Unit, review and consider adjusting the teaching load of the Chair. [Criterion 1.4(3)]

3. Engage all faculty members to review the Family and Consumer Sciences core courses including objectives, assignments, and assessments at least biannually. Syllabi of the core courses as well as discipline-specific courses into which the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge is incorporated should specifically reflect the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge core concepts, integrative elements, and cross-cutting themes. [Criteria (2.1(1)-3)]

4. Engage faculty members from the following programs in completing Matrix 2.1a Core Concepts to be submitted with the first interim report. [Criterion (2.1(1))]
   - Apparel, Merchandising, and Design
   - Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics
   - Human Development and Family Resources

5. Find mechanisms to help all faculty members understand the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge and consider how the Body of Knowledge and its integrative nature might be incorporated into each sequence. A number of the faculty members had difficulty articulating the integrative, synergistic nature of the profession. [Criteria 4.1(8); 4.1(10)]

6. Renovate or update the Food and Nutrition Laboratory, the costume collection facility, exhibition space, and lighting laboratory. [Criteria 1.5(4); 1.5(7)]

7. Allocate additional space to accommodate an infant and toddler program in the Child Care Center to strengthen students’ preparation for working with a broader age range of children and increase opportunities for faculty and students to engage in scholarly activities. [Criteria 1.5(4, 7); 2.2(2); 3.1(2-3, 5)]

8. Increase the number of faculty members actively involved in scholarly pursuits that will advance knowledge in the profession. [Criteria (4.1(3); 4.1(9)]

9. Involve additional personnel (new or current) in advising and internship placement. [Criteria 1.5(3); 4.4(4-5)]

10. Provide laboratory/technical assistance in support of the Unit’s teaching and research mission. [Criterion 1.5(3)]

Actions taken in response to these recommendations are to be described in the Unit’s first interim 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 2021. The next self-study report will be due September 1, 2020.
Members of the Council for Accreditation join us in congratulating you and the faculty on the quality of programs offered by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. This comes with our good wishes for continued success of the programs.

With Best Wishes,

Angela Radford Lewis, Ph.D., CFCS
Chair, Council for Accreditation

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