November 21, 2014

Dr. John Crain, President
101 Dyson Hall
Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA 70402

Dr. Ann K. Carruth, Dean
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
2026 New Kinesiology Building
SLU 10781
Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA 70402

Dr. Jackie Guendouzi, Interim Head
Department of Health and Human Sciences
Room 108 White Hall
SLU 10863
Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA 70402

Dr. Holly Kihm, CCLS, CFLE
FCS Program Coordinator

Dear President Crain, Dr. Carruth, Head Guendouzi, and Coordinator Kihm:

In its November 7, 2014 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Family and Consumer Sciences Program in the Department of Health and Human Sciences at Southeastern Louisiana 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 Family and Consumer Sciences Program and faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. The administration understands and is supportive of the Family and Consumer Sciences Unit’s relevancy to the university, college, department, and community. There is openness to exploring and implementing opportunities for the Family and Consumer Sciences program.

2. The faculty members are student-oriented and caring. They provide relevant content and experiences within the academic program and are outstanding student advisors. Faculty members work well with the Center for Student Excellence.
3. The quality of the Unit’s assessment procedures is evident in the Unit’s strategic plan, especially the use of data to review and revise goals and student outcomes.

4. There is excellent collaboration among faculty members within the Unit in teaching, scholarly activities, and outreach, as well as across the institution as good university citizens.

5. The Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge is clearly embedded in the curriculum and valued by students, internship supervisors, alumni, and employees.

6. The required internship course provides a culminating capstone experience in the professional setting where students are able to put theory into practice. This experience leads to affirmation of the student’s choice of their Family and Consumer Sciences major and opens the door to post-graduation employment and/or continued study.

7. The Family and Consumer Sciences Program continues to enhance their role which includes the Body of Knowledge in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences through shared governance, faculty participation, and other partnerships.

8. The Family and Consumer Sciences Program is being proactive in exploring dual enrollment opportunities with community secondary schools.

9. Faculty members in the Family and Consumer Sciences Program have a strong commitment to distance education.

10. Tenure-track faculty members are actively engaged in scholarly activities, outreach, and professional organizations.

11. All faculty members are to be commended for having professional memberships.

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

1. Continue to embrace opportunities that enhance the Unit’s “fit” within the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. [Criteria 1.1(2); 1.3(2)]

2. Update facilities with attention given to laboratories, especially the ventilation system in the food preparation laboratory. Investigate alternative ventilation systems so that the facility may be used to full capability. [Criteria 1.5(2); 1.5(4)]

3. As the financial climate stabilizes, restore a discretionary budget for the Unit. [Criterion 1.5(2)]

4. Explore options for use of the laboratory space for the apparel and fashion program so that the space is conducive for the number of students enrolled in a course (i.e., reduce number of students taking a course at one time, create another section, or locate another space). [Criterion 1.5(7)]
5. Continue to implement the approved plan in which reliable information on Family and Consumer Sciences Program aggregated student achievement/performance data and other measures are updated at least annually and provided to the public on a timely basis utilizing the homepage of the Unit website. [Criteria 2.3(3); 4.2(2)]

6. Schedule courses so that there is an appropriate balance of online and on-campus offerings within a given semester. [Criteria 2.4(4); (4.2(2)]

7. Ensure that formal assessment of the online degree offerings/program is comparable to what is used for the current face-to-face course offerings/program. [Criterion 2.4(4)]

8. Encourage faculty members and students to participate in local, state, regional, and national professional organizations and activities related to Family and Consumer Sciences as well as the specialty areas. [Criteria 3.1(1); (4.1(8)]

9. As new faculty lines in Family and Consumer Sciences are available, place emphasis on hiring tenure-track, highly qualified faculty members within concentration areas in order to achieve a balance. (Present emphasis on Fashion Merchandising). [Criterion 4.3(2)]

10. Develop and implement a marketing and communication plan to increase the visibility of the Family and Consumer Sciences Program. [Criterion 4.4(3)]

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 (2017) 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 2024. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2023. 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 Family and Consumer Sciences Program in the Department of Health and Human Sciences. This comes with our good wishes for continued success of the programs.

With best wishes,

Billie J. Collier, Ph.D.
Chair, Council for Accreditation

Gay Nell McGinnis, CFCS, Director
Credentialing, Professional Development, and Research