April 23, 2008

Dr. George E. Ross, President  
1000 ASU Drive  
Alcorn State University  
Alcorn State, Mississippi 39096

Dr. Dalton McAfee, Dean  
School of Agriculture, Research & Applied Sciences  
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Dr. Wanda Y. Newell, Department Chair  
Department of Human Sciences  
1000 ASU Drive 839  
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Alcorn State, Mississippi 39096

Dear President Ross, Dean McAfee, and Department Chair Newell:

In its April 2008 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 Alcorn State University. This action follows the institution’s request for change of status and a progress report in response to provisional accreditation granted Fall 2005. Change of status was granted following a careful review and consideration of the progress report.

The Council commends the unit and faculty for the progress made in addressing the issues identified in the provisional accreditation. The following strengths remain noteworthy:

1. The mission and goals of the Department of Human Sciences reflect the mission and goals of the university.

2. The faculty utilizes partnerships, collaborative efforts, and research opportunities to enhance and strengthen the Department of Human Sciences at Alcorn State University.

3. The Child Development Center is an excellent facility providing a creative environment for research, collaborative efforts, and laboratory experiences for students, children, and families.

4. Students display a high level of energy, excitement, and professional commitment to their programs of study and the faculty members with whom they work.
5. Library services, including facilities and related educational resources, are outstanding in meeting the requests and needs of the Department of Human Sciences.

6. Central administration is to be commended for affording the Department of Human Sciences the opportunity to take an active role in all elements of the renovation process of Eunice Powell Hall.

**Recommendations:**
To assist in further development of the programs in the unit, the Council recommends the unit continue to focus on Standards 3 and 4 so that the unit is in compliance with the accreditation standards. The Council recognizes the diligent work in progress relative to the following recommendations and looks forward to continuing progress presented in the upcoming bi-annual reports:

1. Continue to update departmental goals in operational terms and have them serve as a basis for both short-term and long-range planning. Criteria 1.1(2)

2. Continue to monitor and improve the ways in which faculty articulate the meaning of the synergistic, integrative nature of the profession in the program so that students are able to clearly demonstrate their understanding of the synergistic, integrative nature of the profession. Distinguish definitive meanings between interpersonal relationships and an integrative focus. (See A-8--A-11 in 2001 Edition of Accreditation Documents for Undergraduate Programs in Family and Consumer Sciences. Criteria 3.1(1)-3.1(6)

3. Continue to ensure that each professional program includes:
   - Organized learning experiences that are related to program goals and student competencies;
   - Course objectives that are regularly assessed, revised, and reflect contemporary practices of the profession and specialization; and
   - Assessment measures which are appropriate to course objectives and learning experiences. Criteria 4.2(2)

4. Continue to ensure that all faculty members have graduate education and competencies in the assigned area of teaching. Use vacancies to equitably distribute faculty expertise with student enrollment. Intent 5.1

5. Continually monitor and act on assessment information so that full-time professorial faculty assignments and student enrollment are integrated. Criteria 5.5(1)

Further, the Department of Human Sciences at Alcorn State University needs to give special attention to the following recommendations. The Council expects to see progress reported in the next bi-annual report.

1. Implement the plan for an advisory board, set goals and objectives, establish a meeting schedule, and engage this body in analyzing and using the outcome assessment data in updating the program. Criteria 2.5(1), 2.5(2), 4.1(2), and 4.5(2)
2. Develop system for faculty to seek and participate in continuing professional growth experiences and leadership activities. Criteria 5.2(1), 5.2(2)

3. Develop a long-range plan with an annual update to ensure that space and equipment are up-to-date, safe, and adequate for each program. Criteria 8.1(1), 8.1(2), and 8.1(4)

Actions taken in response to these recommendations are to be described in the unit’s next bi-annual report due during the 2009-2010 academic year. In addition, the Council for Accreditation requests that the next bi-annual report include a completed Form 5 and Form 6. 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, 2015. The next self-study report will be due September 1, 2014.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Frances Andrews, Chair
Council for Accreditation

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