December 1, 2015

William “Bill” LaForge, JD, LLM
President, Delta State University
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Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dean
College of Education & Human Sciences
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Dr. Janice Haynes, Chair
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Dear President LaForge, Dr. Griffin, and Dr. Haynes:

In its November 20, 2015 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences at Delta 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 for Accreditation commends the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences and faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. There is an exceptionally high level of dedication and commitment by Division faculty members to students in keeping with the University priorities on serving the Delta region of Mississippi.

2. The Division Chair provides exemplary leadership, organizational expertise, and inspirational guidance.

3. The Division has strong and clear goals and measurement of progress, consistent with the University, College, and Division missions.

4. Delta State University has a campus culture of vitality and mutual respect and the leadership is forward-thinking.

5. Links to the community for students’ experiential learning and internship rotations are effective, and faculty members are highly engaged with community organizations.
6. There are high levels of student satisfaction with their collegiate experience and loyalty to the Division and College.

7. Delta State University has an outstanding record and reputation for diversity as evident in the diverse student population in the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences.

8. The mission of the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences and the expertise of the faculty are consistent with the mission of the profession.

9. The Division of Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members are well-qualified and have the expertise for executing the programs. Recently employed faculty members are engaged and innovative.

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 Division of Family and Consumer Sciences:

1. Continue involvement in emerging initiatives of the University. [Criterion 1.2(3)]

2. Assess and update the teaching load of the Division Chair in relation to the load for such positions in other divisions. [Criterion 1.4(3)]

3. Monitor financial resources of the Division to enhance program delivery and academic excellence. [Criterion 1.5(4)]

4. Improve space and equipment to meet the changing needs of Family and Consumer Sciences curricula (e.g., classrooms, furnishings and equipment, laboratories, and studios). Establish replacement and remodeling timelines. [Criterion 1.5(7)]

5. Develop and implement a plan to assess student understanding of the concepts in the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge. [Criterion 2.2(2)]

6. Continue to implement the approved plan in which reliable information on Division of 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 within two or fewer clicks from the division home page. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]

7. Create and implement a plan for documenting student outreach activities and participation in research. [Criteria 3.2(5); 3.2(6)]

8. Encourage publication of tenure-track faculty scholarly work in addition to presentations. [Criteria 3.2(1); 4.1(6)]

9. Continue the positive direction of enrollment management, student retention and graduation rates, and job placements of the Division. [Criterion 4.4(3)]

10. Develop and implement a plan to enhance the enrollment in the Nutrition and Dietetics and the Food Management programs. [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 (2018) of accreditation. You will receive notification of the specific date the report will be due to arrive in the Office of Accreditation for consideration during the Council for Accreditation’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 2025. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2024.

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.

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

With best wishes,

Ethel G. Jones, Ph.D., CFCS
Chair, Council for Accreditation

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