MEMORANDUM

To: Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost

From: Wendy L. Way, Associate Dean

Date: September 25, 2014

Re: Discontinuation of the degree major in Family, Consumer, and Community Education.

On September 22, the School of Human Ecology Academic Planning Council voted unanimously to permanently discontinue the degree major in Family, Consumer, and Community Education (FCCE). Dean Soyeon Shim and I both concur with the decision. This memo is to forward the recommendation for review and possible approval by the University Academic Planning Council (UAPC).

Admissions to the FCCE program were suspended beginning in the fall of 2012 after the UAPC approved the School's December 2011 request to do so. As noted in the original proposal (attached), this program had a history of low enrollments (15 in 2011) and provided a teacher education service that duplicated similar programs at both the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and University of Wisconsin-Stout. There is currently only one remaining student enrolled in the program and she is completing her last required course this semester and will graduate in December of this year. The School has determined that no students have stopped out of the program who would expect to re-enroll at a future date. Thus, if approved, the School expects to end support for the program after the fall 2014 semester.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.
Proposal to Suspend Admissions to the  
B.S. in Family, Consumer, and Community Education  

October 24, 2011

The Program

The Family, Consumer, and Community Education B.S. degree major, offered through the School of Human Ecology in cooperation with the School of Education, results in a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction-issued license to teach family and consumer sciences education at the middle and high school level. According to Wisconsin DPI statistics, demand for teachers in this area exceeds supply in most areas of the state (Supply and Demand of Educational Personnel for Wisconsin Public Schools, 2008). Undergraduate students majoring in the field are also currently eligible for federal Department of Education TEACH grants of up to $16,000 over four years because it has been identified as a ‘high need teaching field’ nationally (http://www.education.wisc.edu/eas/scholarships/TEACHGrant.asp).

Rationale for Suspending Admissions

The School of Human Ecology has engaged in a great deal of strategic planning in response to recent state budget reductions and campus decisions about internal reallocation of funds, including those associated with the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates. Despite a documented demand for graduates, the Family, Consumer, and Community Education degree major has the lowest enrollments among undergraduate programs in the School; currently 15 students. This major used to serve students pursuing both teacher certification and community and nonprofit leadership foci. In 2009, Community and Nonprofit Leadership was approved as a new degree major; thus the Family, Consumer, and Community Education degree major now serves only students pursuing teacher certification.

Although the School of Education collaborates in offering this Human Ecology program by, for example, assisting with practicum placements and monitoring students’ eligibility for teacher licensure, having a teacher education program in a non-education School is a barrier to program visibility and operation. The School of Human Ecology has explored offering this teacher certification in other ways, for example via distance education and in conjunction with other Human Ecology degrees such as family studies. However, funding does not permit us to move forward with these or any other alternative(s) currently. In addition, two other state institutions, University of Wisconsin-Stout and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offer similar programs. So, although the demand for teachers in this area is not currently being met, there are other options for becoming certified to teach in this area in Wisconsin.

Plan for Implementation

We propose to suspend new admissions to the program commencing with the fall semester of 2012. We also propose to continue to offer courses (via independent study if needed) to permit those students currently in the program to finish through the spring of 2014. Of the 15 students enrolled in the program, 5 are expected to graduate by May of 2012, another 3 should finish by May of 2013, and the rest by December of 2013 or May of 2014 at latest. Two of the students in the program are currently teaching on emergency licenses and have been earning credits as part-time students in order to maintain their emergency teaching licenses. Those students will be notified of other arrangements
they can make if they do not finish certification requirements through UW-Madison within the stated time frame. This would include working with UW-Stout or Stevens Point and/or taking courses toward certification through the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance.