



Department of Human
Development and Family Studies

To: Jay Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Diversity

VIA: Marion Underwood, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences

From: Valerie Knopik, Head, Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Date: October 12, 2022

Re: Name Change from Department of Human Development and Family Studies to Department of Human Development and Family Science

The faculty of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies seek to change their name to the Department of Human Development and Family Science. The faculty have discussed this name change and voted overwhelmingly (91%) in support of the proposed change. This request also has the full support of Marion Underwood, Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences.

This proposed change will:

- (1) Align HFDS with the current shift in the field from 'Family Studies' to 'Family Science'. In general, the shift toward 'Family Science' is felt to (a) better represent the scientific rigor and modern developments in the field; (b) more accurately represent scholars, students, and professionals as Family Scientists, which stands up in academic and practice communities; and (c) more accurately represent both discovery of knowledge and application of knowledge – i.e., convey that both basic science and applied science are important and interrelated. According to sources that rank HDFS departments (e.g., the National Council on Family Relations), roughly 50% of our peer institutions use the term Family Science.
- (2) Align with two of our existing undergraduate majors: Developmental and Family Science; Family and Consumer Sciences Education.
- (3) Assist in clarifying the scientific foundation and rigor that is inherent in our courses (theory and applied) and experiential education (i.e., research, internships, study abroad, extension) which we believe will increase undergraduate and graduate student enrollment.
- (4) Aligns HDFS with the name of our College (Health and Human Sciences) as well as four other HHS units (Speech Language and Hearing Sciences, Psychological Sciences, Nutrition Science, Health Sciences) as well as the Division of Consumer Science, housed under the White Lodging – J.W. Marriott School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, also within HHS.

Approval Recommended:

Jay T. Akridge
Provost, Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Diversity

Approved:

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
President



October 29, 2022

Jay Akridge, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

Re: Proposal for Name Change of Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Dear Provost Akridge,

On behalf of the Academic Organization Committee (AOC), I am pleased to provide our review of the proposal from Valerie Knopik, Head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. The proposal requests to change the name from Department of Human Development and Family Studies to Department of Human Development and Family Science. A one-page memo describing the reasoning for the proposed changes was provided to the committee.

The reasoning provided for the name change is sound and convincing, and the overwhelming majority of faculty in HDFFS voted in support of the proposal. The members of the AOC discussed the proposal and only had one question, which Prof. Knopik promptly answered to the committee's satisfaction. Therefore, the Academic Organization Committee supports the proposal and recommends that it be accepted. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the AOC chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'S Bane'.

Sally Bane, Ph.D.
Chair, Academic Organization Committee

cc. Members of the Academic Organization Committee

Ashley Bellet
Nancy Edwards
Libby Richards
Mark Wilson