

**Department of Family Development  
Committee of Professors Meeting Minutes  
Teleconferenced Meeting  
8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.  
August 19, 2011**

**1. Call to order and verification of open Meeting Law Compliance**

Chairperson Mary Meehan-Strub called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. The meeting was posted as required by Open Meeting Law Section 19.84 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

**2. Roll Call**

Members present were: Mary Meehan-Strub, Nancy Brooks, Karen Dickrell, Marma McIntee, Chris Kniep, and Faye Malek. Marilyn Herman was excused. The meeting was taped for Donna Doll-Yogerst. There were no guests.

**3. Approval of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Minutes**

Chris Kniep moved to approve the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Committee of Professors Meeting Minutes, second by Faye Malek. Motion carried. Minutes will be placed on file.

**4. Candidates for Professor**

There are no candidates who have indicated interest for promotion this year. Mary asked what the committee could do to encourage colleagues to apply for professor status. Suggestions included: pair up candidate with a mentor once interest is indicated, look who is eligible and divide that list for individual contacts, and help alleviate concern about budget issues especially as it relates to the county's 40% contribution. It was decided that Mary will assign names for committee members to contact from the list of 18 eligible colleagues for promotion to professor. Committee members will remind them of their promotion opportunity, determine their interest in the promotion, provide criteria for promotion, and answer questions. During the December meeting of the Committee of Professors, a committee will be formed to develop a Wisline and other methods of reaching colleagues regarding application for professor status. A Wisline will be scheduled for next spring for potential professor candidates using updated 2007 Wisline content, and an informal approach.

**5. Resolution: Role of Family Living Education Faculty in County Cooperative Extension Offices in Wisconsin.**

The resolution was drafted by Karen and Chris. It was precipitated by openings filled at the county level, some of which were short-term, with persons who did not meet the position criteria used for long-term faculty positions. The intent of the resolution is to retain faculty positions, to meet specified qualifications, and to be a part of the decision-making process. Suggestions for resolution wording included: consider using "limited term" in the title of the position, add a reference to county-level support, provide language that shows the creation of

the resolution is within the Professor Committee and the University Committee's review, include District Director as a partner in making hiring decisions, and include a historical perspective of family living program development. The recipients of the document would help to determine if a historical reference needs to be included. At this time, the recipients include: the Dean, Associate Dean, Program Leader, and Chancellor. The last paragraph should reflect wording such as "filling vacant positions with temporary academic staff where a faculty member was previously employed at the vacant position". Discussion on the wording for the title concluded with: "Resolution on the Role of the Department of Family Development in County Family Living Educator/Agent Position Hiring Decisions".

Further discussion included the options of the resolution either being forward by the Professor's Committee to the Dean, Associate Dean, Program Leader, and Chancellor, or presented on behalf of the Department of Family of Family Development. Karen, Chris, and Nancy will refine the document and send it back to committee members for their approval before sending it to the Department Chair. In order for it to be placed on the August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Department of Family Development meeting agenda, Chris will send the title of the resolution to Donna. After discussion at the Department meeting, the resolution will be moved forward to Extension administration. Chris made a motion to have the resolution approved by the Department of Family Development, second by Karen. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**6. Request for sharing WNEP Information and Correspondence.**

Prior to the meeting, Laurie Boyce and Mary Meehan-Strub discussed the need for increased sharing of WNEP information to Family Living Educators, FLEs. In the last week, correspondence has come from Bev Phillips to FLEs via email. Family Living Educators have been added to the WNEP distribution list.

**7. What is a Family Development-Related Degree?**

Karen Dickrell, ad hoc member of a committee focused on what is a family development-related degree, provided a report. A committee was formed as a result of issues raised by Donna Doll-Yogerst in understanding how some applicants got to the interview process. People have a variety of educational backgrounds/degrees and think they are eligible for Family Living Educator positions. Some degrees in liberal arts are difficult to identify, therefore, transcripts need to be reviewed to determine course work taken. Looking at the person's publications could help in that determination as well. A sheet developed by the ad hoc committee, "What is a family development-related degree?" was provided for committee members. It listed degrees that do or do not apply to the core content areas of family living, excellent "second" degrees, and options resulting from an absence of a "clear" Family Development degree. Committee members authoring the document include: Ann Keim, Donna Doll-Yogerst, Marilyn Herman, and Karen Dickrell. Suggestions for additions included: allow time to earn a Master's Degree, and what applicants can do to enhance relevant criteria for application in the future. Karen will work

with Donna to raise questions brought up by the committee. What is being accepted and not accepted needs to be clear so there is no room to question decisions.

**8. Instructional Value of Faculty – Posting on Website**

Mary is awaiting a response from Donna regarding electronic submissions.

**9. Understanding the Value of Faculty Status – What can be done?**

From the joint sharing session at JCEP, there is a sense that faculty members who may-or-may-not be tenured, still question the importance of tenure. Discussion: as a department, we don't meet that often. Are there other ways colleagues can be kept abreast of what the department is about? There could be more frequent communication about being a faculty member.

Because we are in 72 counties, we don't have the pleasure of seeing each other daily. The roles and responsibilities of mentors and mentoring teams are sometimes inconsistent. Ideas for meetings: presentations by colleagues who authored papers, discussion on our Department's philosophy, and why the resolution being discussed at this meeting needed to be written. Meet more often but with a purpose. Have monthly Family Living Program Wislines that not only talk about programs, but also about research-based information for now and the future. We need more team building, more communication with-and-from specialists, to use technology to communicate more frequently. People won't value faculty if they don't know what faculty do.

**10. Department Webpage Updates**

Mary will check with Donna to ask about posting reflection pages from colleagues who were promoted to Professor with Tenure in recent years.

**11. Filling Pending Committee Vacancies**

**12. Future Meeting Dates: December 2, 2011, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Wisline or Face-to-Face Day**

The committee wishes to have a face-to-face meeting with Laurie Boyce rather than a Wisline on December 2, 2011. Mary will ask Laurie if that is possible. Meeting dates for 2011 will be selected at the December meeting.

**13. Other Business/Concerns (for discussion only)**

None

**14. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Chris, second by Marma. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Faye Malek Secretary

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.