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DOC 2012-11 Proposal to Rename the School of Education & Allied Professions (SOEAP)

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PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Proposal to Rename the School of Education & Allied Professions (SOEAP)

SUBMITTED BY: Office of the Dean, School of Education & Allied Professions

DATE: Submitted August 2012

ACTION: Legislative

REFERENCE: Senate Constitution II.B.1.a. Also see Senate Document 12-08 “Department Proposal Process”

1. Rationale

The University of Dayton Academic Senate and Board of Trustees have approved initiation of a Department of Physician Assistant Education and development and implementation of a Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP) program. Given this expansion of the SOEAP’s health science programs, the time has come to determine a new School name that communicates the identities and full scope of our academic programs. The University has significant investments in the Department of Health & Sport Science and Doctor of Physical Therapy program and will be making a significant additional investment in MPAP. We need a School name that reflects the numerous health-related programs available to our undergraduate and graduate students. We believe that a more appropriate name will help us recruit undergraduate and graduate students and new faculty. A new name will also be advantageous for faculty in the health sciences who are seeking external research funding.

Internal considerations. Some members of the UD community may think that using “Science” in the names of two academic units will cause confusion. To provide perspective on this issue, we did additional research on the academic unit names commonly used among our Catholic peers offering health science programs. The following institutions use “Science” in names of two academic units:

Marquette University	School of Health Sciences	Klingler College of Arts & Sciences
Seton Hall University	School of Medical & Health Sciences	College of Arts & Sciences
St. Louis University	Doisy Health Sciences College	College of Arts & Sciences
Xavier University	College of Social Sciences, Health & Education	College of Arts & Sciences

It appears that these peer institutions have successfully used “Science” as part of the identity of two academic units. Further, three of our aspirational peers in the field of health sciences use the term

“Science” in their titles: Duquesne (John G. Ragnos, Sr. School of Health Sciences), Marquette, and St. Louis Universities.

Further alternatives. We have explored two alternative names that could heighten the distinction between our new unit name and the College of Arts & Sciences: (a) School of Education and Health and (b) School of Education and Clinical Health Sciences. The former name is unsatisfactory for two reasons. First, the term “health” is used almost exclusively as an adjective for “professions,” “sciences,” and “services” in the names of academic units. I could identify only four examples of use of “health” as a noun in a title: Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; Miami University School of Education, Health, and Society; University of Utah College of Health; and Xavier University College of Social Sciences, Health & Education. Second, use of the title “Education and Health” suggests that we have a health education program, which is not the case. Regarding the latter title, we could find no examples of the use of “clinical health science” in the name of an academic college or school. (These investigations were based on Google searches that were continued to the point of redundancy or lack of relevance to the original search term. It is possible that there are academic unit names within colleges and universities that were not captured by this search method.)

2. Consultations

Enrollment Management recommendation. SOEAP requested a market analysis from Enrollment Management (EM) to address this question. The EM staff used IPEDs degree completion data to analyze common names of 39 schools and colleges that offer health programs similar to those within SOEAP. The EM analysis showed a strong preference (3-to-1) for “Health Sciences” over “Health Professions.” Based on these findings, Vice President Kumarasamy recommended “School of Education & Health Sciences” as our new name.

SOEAP recommendation. The EM recommendation is consistent with our analysis within the School. We believe that “Health Sciences” is superior to “Health Professions” because “science” connotes a focus on scientific inquiry and knowledge – an emphasis on professional practice based in science. Our perception is that the term “professions” has a vocational emphasis that does not match UD’s reputation as a top-tier research university. The SOEAP faculty approved adoption of the new name of “School of Education and Health Sciences.”

Conclusion. We propose changing our unit name to the School of Education and Health Sciences effective July 1, 2013.