

Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition (DHN) 2015-2016 Implementation Plan Report

Recommendations:

1. Solidify Chair position as permanent appointment.

This recommendation is complete as the Chair has been providing leadership since July 1, 2013 with a six year commitment.

2. To allow more time for successful extramural support, provide budget flexibility associated with salary savings, encourage junior faculty support for promotion and tenure, encourage mid-level faculty to seek promotion, and provide funding for graduate students, additional faculty are needed (the suggestion was 2 FTE instruction, one FTE research and one FTE Extension).

Assessment method: A hiring plan was recommended that included the hiring of a twelve-month Lecturer by 8/15/14; an Extension Associate by 1/15/15 and a tenure track Assistant Professor by 7/1/15.

Results: After reopening the Assistant Professor position (left open from a recent retirement), a strong pool netted a culture diversity specialist who will bring potential grant funding and academic and Extension programming to DHN. The position was filled with a start date of August 1, 2016. A Lecturer position left open after a faculty member became an Assistant Professor was filled January 1, 2016 with a Physician Assistant. She will bring valuable shadowing opportunities for over two dozen DHN students interested in careers in medicine. Another Lecturer position was filled August 16, 2016 with an individual who has up-to-date medical nutrition therapy and human resource expertise. This will greatly impact our ACEND-accredited Dietetic major. Upon the retirement of an Extension Associate, a well-qualified individual with nutrition and entrepreneurial experience started September 15, 2016. In addition, one faculty member was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Analysis of results and reflection: DHN was able to find innovative persons to keep our academic coursework and ACEND accreditation up-to-date, offer service opportunities to students to improve their options of being accepted into advanced professional schools and increase our DHN and faculty research agenda.

Ongoing improvement actions: With the largest number of owned instruction hours and the highest faculty to student ratio, investing in personnel resources to allow faculty and staff to continue FIRST (Focus, Innovation, Respect, Success, Teamwork) -rate academic, research and outreach community endeavors, collaborations and student opportunities continues to be important. At this time, this recommendation is complete.

3. Review and update graduate program, including course offerings.

Assessment method: Approval of new graduate courses and revision of existing graduate courses, including new core requirements.

Results: The new graduate program name of Nutrition and Food Systems and new course offerings were approved by the Senate Council in May 2015. Both new courses were officially taught in 2015. Seven previously enrolled students have graduated with a MS degree in Nutrition and Food Systems and DHN has accepted 21 students into the program in 2015 and 2016.

Analysis of results and reflection: There is a higher percentage of interest in the DHN MS in Nutrition and Food Systems with accepted students having a higher GRE writing score than previously experienced.

Ongoing improvement actions: DHN will continue to offer FIRST-rate educational academic and experiential learning activities for our graduate students. This recommendation is complete.

4. Department needs to come to consensus on the direction of the research enterprise.

This recommendation is complete. Faculty members are dedicated to finding innovative solutions to real-world problems addressing the state of Kentucky, our nation at large, and beyond. The long-term goal is to reduce the risks of obesity and chronic diseases and to contribute to evidence-based best practices in the profession of dietetics and human nutrition. Faculty continue to work on goals set in the \$1.8 million Centers for Disease Control Grant - Collaborative Environment Approaches to Reduce Obesity Disparities in Kentucky; \$800,000 National Coordination Center for Regional Nutrition Education Centers of Excellence; Social media research monies within the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education; and \$2.5 million USDA Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center. An additional \$724,449 funding was secured in 2016 from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

5. DHN should use technology to communicate with FCS Agents for updates, discussion of consumer trends, and informational needs.

Assessment method: DHN faculty continues to use technology to improve communications with CES Agents, with a focus on FCS Agents, throughout the state.

Results: DHN faculty uses technology to disseminate education materials in the form of web sites, publications, and distance learning programming. Twenty-one distance

learning workshops were offered this year. Ten workshops with a technology component were presented. This was also the year of conference calls, especially as related to collaborating Kentucky counties. Four Extension publications were published online for FCS Extension Agent and clientele use.

Analysis of results and reflection: With 120 counties and a five hour drive to the furthest county, it is imperative we use technology to transmit research-based and up-to-date information to all agents.

Ongoing improvement actions: Distance learning workshops and training workshops will continue to be offered to FCS Extension Agents.

6. Some older Extension materials need to be more professional looking and content updated; could use undergraduate students, graduate students, and FCS Agents to support this work.

Assessment method: Faculty members are responsible for determining if their publications need updating or a new look.

Results: Publications headers and footers are being updated as they are revised in keeping with CAFE's policy. All publications with the food guide pyramid graphic has been replaced with the new MyPlate graphic.

Analysis of results and reflection: Nutrition education is an ever changing landscape and it is up to us to keep Extension FCS Agents and clientele abreast of those changes.

Ongoing improvement actions: This is a never-ending and ongoing improvement action by faculty.

7. With College input, need to develop a plan to repair/upgrade ageing facilities and replace critical pieces of equipment.

Assessment method: Foods laboratories, Lemon Tree Café, BodPod Research Laboratory, graduate student space, and NIH/NIFA space for grant activities need continual upgrades to provide best practice student learning outcomes and quality research and scholarly activities.

Results: CAFE administration was informed of future plans for repair and upgrade and given permission to use excess state funds to assist in this endeavor.

Analysis of results and reflection: Since the renovation of 207 Funkhouser, Campus Kitchens at UK and UK SSTOP Hunger has utilized the space to feed the hungry. As of May 2016, CKUK had served 5,220 meals from 6,705 pounds of rescued food, and served an average of 302 clients per month. Over 200 students from across campus volunteered 8,669 hours. As a result, out of 51 Campus Kitchens from across

the nation, CKUK was awarded the 2016 Campus Kitchen of the Year designation. DHN 304 Experimental Foods uses the classroom space for student and faculty educational and research needs. Currently, audio video equipment is being added to this laboratory space. In addition, the Bodpod Room, located in 117 Funkhouser is being gutted and retrofitted for additional research assessment.

Ongoing improvement actions: An open line of communication will be maintained to keep facilities and equipment operational for student and faculty educational and research needs. This recommendation is complete.

8. Promote a team environment by empowering positive leadership from mid-level and junior faculty and students, practice open communication, and develop a policy to provide a student-oriented and collegial environment.

Assessment method: Monthly faculty conversations, professional development opportunities, and open door policy for students and faculty will promote a positive team environment that meets our FIRST core values.

Results: All faculty members participated in at least two professional opportunities, attending professional conferences, learning workshops, or webinars this year. Core values of FIRST will drive a student-oriented environment.

Analysis of results and reflection: High expectations for faculty and students have set the stage for open communication and trust. Strong leadership and opportunities for meaningful professional development for both faculty and students continue to allow for more internal and external partnerships.

Ongoing improvement actions: FIRST core values continue to direct our student- and faculty-centered efforts.

9. Enhance program management and advising activities and opportunities through collaborative efforts of faculty and the newly hired Academic Coordinator. The Academic Coordinator and DUS will be responsible for implementing enrollment management efforts, pending UK approval. Student advising and retention of high quality students will be improved through new advising materials, web site enhancement, and a lower student to advisor load.

Assessment method: Student advising and retention of high quality students will be improved through new advising materials, web site enhancement, and a lower student to advisor load.

Results: A Senate-approved DHN enrollment management plan was implemented Fall 2014 and we continue to monitor the effectiveness of the program. Students are now considered pre-dietetics or pre-human nutrition until core course-work has been completed with a minimum 2.8 GPA before becoming a major in the department.

Analysis of results and reflection: More time is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of enrollment management efforts.

Ongoing improvement actions: The Academic Coordinator and Director of Undergraduate Studies will be responsible for collecting data for further evaluation.

10. Assess and develop a strategy of instruction and course work that will reflect progressive student competencies/learning outcomes.

Assessment method: DHN faculty will discuss and strategize to constantly improve and enhance student competencies/learning outcomes at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Results: DHN 313 Community Nutrition through the Lifecycle II to replace DHN 403 Community Nutrition and DHN 300 Experiential Learning have entered the system for Senate Approval. DHN 313 combines information about the lifecycle with community nutrition resources, a more current theme across the nation. DHN 300 is being added to meet the needs of education abroad academic endeavors which require credit. DHN 346 Human Resources in the Hospitality Field is being upgraded to give a broad overview of the industry. The 800 series dietetic internship courses were approved to become 500-level courses. Students will apply as post-baccalaureate students instead of to the graduate school, saving students approximately \$6,000 in tuition. This positions us from one of the most expensive dietetic internships to a more competitive position. We should attract better and more qualified applicants, improving our RD pass rate status. An interdisciplinary Human Performance Certificate (between DHN and the College of Health Sciences) became available to interested students fall 2016.

Ongoing improvement actions: DHN will continue to enrich student learning outcomes in education and research through new opportunities. The Curriculum Committee and Graduate Faculty will continue to evaluate curriculum needs and opportunities.

Additional Internal Recommendations as of October 2015

New Recommendations:

- 1. Develop Hunger initiatives, complete with a Community Outreach Director within DHN, including a Hunger minor, a UK Campus Kitchens chapter and a new foods laboratory space.**

Assessment method: To meet the interest in foods systems of our students, especially as it relates to hunger issues, DHN has explored opportunities for enhanced student learning experiences/outcomes.

Results: The new Director of Community Outreach and select faculty moved from conversations to developing a Campus Kitchens at UK and SSTOP Hunger organization to supporting those organizations. DHN is hosting the First Annual Hunger Summit, which provides national participants ways to improve the hunger situation in their environment. We continue to send students to the Universities Fighting World Hunger and the Food Waste and Hunger Summit, as well as foods related education abroad to Italy. The minor in Hunger Studies is being reformulated as a certificate at the request of the Senate.

Analysis of results and reflections: The student-driven Campus Kitchen at UK and SSTOP Hunger organizations are cutting across university disciplines and increasing participation of students in hunger-related issues.

Ongoing improvement actions: DHN faculty is committed to continuing to offer hunger related experiential learning activities and opportunities with collaborative partners across disciplines.

2. Develop a long range fundraising plan for increasing scholarship and foods laboratory remodel monies.

Assessment method: Raising funds for special DHN projects has become a real need.

Results: The chair met with a CAFE Advancement officer to determine a development plan for the future. Our first DHN Alumni Reception will occur fall 2016. Funds will go to an unrestricted Student Success Fund. Donations from Lemon Tree will continue to fund the Lemon Tree Scholarship Fund while the other half of the donations will go to the Student Success Fund. The Bastin Family Scholarship Fund and the Abby Marlatt DHN Community Outreach Fund is ready to move forward for approval from the Board of Trustees.

Analysis of results and reflections: DHN will follow Advancement Office advice on best methods to raise funds needed for faculty, student and community outreach professional activities, as well as monies to remodel or improve laboratory spaces throughout DHN.

Ongoing improvement actions: The DHN faculty is committed to bringing in funding for scholarship and hunger related student learning opportunities. The fundraising plan is in place and therefore this recommendation is complete.

3. Update all of DHN Website for better marketing of degrees and activities.

Assessment method: Better visibility of DHN faculty accolades and activities can occur through social media, including an improved and enhanced web site.

Results: The Community Outreach Director and select faculty continues to update and add exciting photos to reflect our FIRST core values and improve and enhance the visibility of DHN. More interest in undergraduate and graduate degrees has resulted from these upgrades.

Analysis of results and reflections: DHN select faculty have learned the CAFE web platform, allowing the development of a more maneuverable and exciting methodology in presenting academic, research and outreach/Extension opportunities and activities on DHN's web site.

Ongoing improvement actions: The DHN faculty is committed to improving our visibility as a FIRST-rate department through social media, including an improved and enhanced web site. This recommendation is complete.