ACTION ITEM: Discontinuation of the Family Research Center

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Family Research Center was approved by the Board of Trustees in 1977, residing in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) within the School of Health and Human Sciences (HHS). There are multiple reasons why the request to discontinue the Family Research Center (FRC) is being put forward at this time:

- Some of the functions that the Family Research Center once performed are now provided by the Child and Family Research network and, thus, the usefulness of the center has been greatly reduced.
- The director of the center, Dr. Marion O’Brien, retired in May of 2012.
- No creative ideas or proposals about a unique mission that might be served by the center emerged in faculty discussions within the School of Health and Human Sciences and the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.
- The Family Research Center was approved to reside solely within the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. The unit believes that for the center to be maximally useful it needs to be led by multiple units.
- The Family Research Center currently has no budget, receives no funds, and has no existing contracts/grants that are affiliated with it.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro approve the discontinuation of the Family Research Center.

David H. Perrin
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Form C

Request to DISCONTINUE an Institutional Center or Institute

This form must be submitted and approved prior to closing an institutional center or institute.

A request to discontinue may be initiated by the individual who has primary responsibility for the center/institute (the Provost / Executive Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Associate Provost, Dean, or Department Chair / Head.)

Reasons to discontinue a center/institute may include such things as a changing need for the center's work or research, loss of key personnel, or unavailability of funding.

Submit three copies of all materials to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, 1601 MHRA, Campus

Contact Information:

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I. General Information

Name of Center/Institute: Family Research Center

Organizational structure

X Center
Institute

Status

X Institutional

Inter-Institutional. (involves other NON-UNC institutions, agencies, or organizations, such as other non-UNC colleges and universities, schools, hospitals, industry, foundations, or governmental bodies)

Please list:

University System Multi-Campus Centers and Institute (involves more than one campus in the UNC system)

Please list:
Type of Center / Institute

Research

Public Service

Instructional

Please attach responses to the following. Provide the information on one side of the paper, 1 inch left margin, Times Roman. Do not exceed 5 pages.

II. Explain in detail the reasons for the request to discontinue this center or institute. Include such considerations as loss of funding, loss of key faculty or other administrators, change in mission or goals, and/or replacement by a new center/institute, etc.

III. Explain how an orderly termination or transfer of contractual obligations will be handled during the "phase-out" period.

IV. Indicate the proposed effective termination date.

V. Provide any additional information necessary to support the request to discontinue.

Submitted by: Mark Frit

Title: Chair

Signature: Mark Frit

Date: 1/11/13

APPROVALS:

Mark Frit 1/11/13

Department Chair / Head

Date

Cecil R. Hogg

Dean

Date

Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Date

Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor

Date

Chancellor

Date

Chair, UNCG Board of Trustees

Date
II. Explain in detail the reasons for the request to discontinue this center or institute.

There are several reasons why we request to discontinue the Family Research Center (FRC). First, some of the functions that the FRC once performed are now provided by CFRN and, thus, the usefulness of the FRC has been greatly reduced. Second, the Director of the FRC, Marion O’Brien, retired in May of 2012. Third, no creative ideas or proposals about a unique mission that might be served by the FRC emerged in faculty discussions. Fourth, the FRC resides solely within HDFS and we now believe that for a Center to be maximally useful it needs to be led by multiple units. Finally, the FRC has no budget, receives no funds, and has no existing contracts/grants that are affiliated with it.

III. There are no current contractual obligations, so there will not need to be a “phase-out” period.

IV. We propose that the termination date be January 1, 2013.

V. In discussions with Vice Chancellor Shelton and Dean Hooper, we were assured that HDFS would continue to be able to use the space currently allotted to the FRC. This space is currently housing a major grant project and is being used also to support CFRN.