

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE



To: Craig Campbell, Chair--Academic Programs Committee
From: John J. Yemma, Dean--College of Health and Human Services
Date: September 28, 1998
Subject: Early Childhood Program

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Yemma', is written over the 'From:' line of the header.

The College of Education and the Department of Human Ecology in the College of Health and Human Services jointly proposed an Early Childhood Program which came to your committee for action during the 1997-98 academic year. Human Ecology has long been involved in the education of students entering this field.

Because the program would include the education of teachers in early childhood, the program is required to meet the standards promulgated by the State Department of Education and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the learned society for early childhood education. Human Ecology has courses pertinent to the program, and in order that strict adherence to the necessary standards were met, some modifications were made in our courses.

Subsequently, the Curriculum Committee reviewed and acted favorably on these courses. The College of Education did likewise. To initiate this action, Dr. Clara Jennings and I signed an agreement to jointly design the program and assigned faculty within the field to do this. In fact, our last two hires in Human Ecology were aimed at obtaining two faculty with the necessary expertise.

As you well know, the program proceeded according to University requirements and was finally brought before the University Senate for a vote in spring of 1998. There, a psychology faculty member protested (very late, at best) the lack of his course being included in the program. If I had known of this earlier, I would have addressed the problem then.

I understand that Dr. Jennings wants to withdraw the program and redo it. This is not at all necessary for several reasons--the program meets the necessary standards. the hard work of five faculty members must be considered, and curriculum, of course, is a faculty prerogative.

Since Dean Jennings and I signed a memorandum agreeing to jointly establish the program, I feel that both of us should agree to withdraw the program. I will not agree to this action.

The courses we proposed and you passed on were designed for this program. What are we to do if excluded from participation? This concerns me, and I am further concerned by the potential of not using faculty specifically trained in the early childhood field.

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We must, of course, resolve the psychology problem and we have met with them in order to seek resolution.

It is my hope that this correspondence will clarify the situation and prevent any future misunderstanding.

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c: Provost Scanlon
Anne York
Clara Jennings
Louise Pavia
Hannah Nissen
Phil Ginnetti
Denise DaRos
Nancy Sweeney