Transforming the University

Final Recommendations of the
Task Force on Collegiate Design: CEHD-CHE (SSW & FSoS)

Task Force membership: (* committee co-chairs)

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Submitted on behalf of the Task Force by:

David Chapman
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Co-Chairs of the Task Force
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I. Executive Summary

The Committee Charge, the deliverables, and the task force membership and contact information is located in Annex A

The TF does not recommend a name for the new college but feels that a name should be selected as a way to signify the creation of a new college that transcends any of the three colleges now being combined yet also clearly indicates the mission and focus of faculty and program area efforts within the college.

The TF recommends the following mission: The new College is committed to being a world leader in creating and advancing knowledge in the fields of education, family systems, human welfare and human development across the lifespan by conducting rigorous research, identifying and applying creative solutions to the pressing problems of individuals, families, societies and countries in timely, relevant ways, and transmitting knowledge through quality publications and products, teaching efforts and public engagement and disseminating research.

To accomplish this mission, the TF recommends that the work of the new College be concentrated within five over-arching “Themes of Distinction”: (a) Teaching and Learning, (b) Development across the Life Span, (c) Economic and Social Well-Being, (d) Educational and Social Policy and Leadership, and (e) Social Justice and Diversity.

The Task Force proposes that the new College be organized in nine academic departments, four college-wide centers and three virtual, cross-cutting “Collaboratives for Excellence”— a Collaborative for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research, a Collaborative for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and a Collaborative for Excellence in Public Engagement. This structure balances a desire to reduce the structural and financial barriers that currently impede cross-departmental and interdisciplinary collaboration in CEHD and CHE with a concern that the positive national reputation and rankings of current departments and programs not be jeopardized during this restructuring. (See figure 1)

The five themes provide a way of highlighting focal areas of our strength as a College. The organizational structure suggested above provides an operational mechanism for supporting work within those themes. The TF recommends an additional step, the formation of CENTERPIECE TOPICS, through which the College can encourage work across themes.

The TF emphasizes that the proposed structure will only lead to the ends we seek if important supporting conditions are also present, including adequacy of support services, physical proximity of groups with common interests, amount and quality of space that promotes our current and future agendas, agility in competing for external funds, and flexibility in personnel issues. It is essential that money saved as a result of this consolidation be re-invested in promoting the excellence of this new College. These issues are discussed in the full report.