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July 16, 2015

Barbara S. Cottam
Chair

July 7, 2015

Council on Elementary and
Secondary Education

To: Council on Postsecondary Education

Daniel P. McConaghy
Chair

From: Commissioner Jim Purcell, Ed.D.

Amy Beretta, Esq.

Subject: Notice from the University of Rhode Island: formation of the Academic Health Collaborative with three colleges: Health Sciences, Nursing, and Pharmacy; Creation of a College of Health Sciences including the transferring in of the following departments/program: Communicative Disorders, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nutrition and Food Science, Physical Therapy, Psychology, and Health Studies program; Creation of an Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation; Creation of an Office of Shared Services; and closure of the College of Human Science and Services.

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The university is announcing the following organizational changes:

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Education

- Formation of the Academic Health Collaborative with the Colleges of Health Sciences, Nursing, and Pharmacy
- Creation of a College of Health Sciences
- Transfer of the following departments/programs into the College of Health Sciences:
 - Communicative Disorders,
 - Human Development and Family Studies,
 - Kinesiology,
 - Nutrition and Food Science,
 - Physical Therapy,
 - Psychology; and
 - Health Studies Program
- Creation of the Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation, and
- Establishment of an Office of Shared Services
- Closure of the College of Human Science and Services

William Foulkes
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The Honorable Thomas Izzo

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Rationale

The University developed the following vision statement for the Academic Health Collaborative (AHC):

The URI Academic Health Collaborative is dedicated to cross-cutting innovation in broad aspects of health-related education, research, and community engagement with a focus on interprofessional education, population health, health promotion and recognition and elimination of health disparities. The work of the Academic Health Collaborative

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includes preparation of contemporary kinds of health literate citizens and health providers and individuals prepared to contribute to new kinds of health organizations and workforce opportunities, including promoting health in our own community and state.

Currently the health disciplines at URI are dispersed across multiple units in five colleges: Arts and Sciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Human Science and Services. The objective of the Academic Health Collaborative is to promote cooperative effort across these disciplines and areas of expertise. The Academic Health Collaborative will include the Colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing and the new College of Health Sciences; each of the colleges will be led by a Dean who will be responsible for integrating activities across the Academic Health Collaborative (see chart on page 4).

Structure and Administration of Academic Health Collaborative

The administrative structure for the Academic Health Collaborative includes an Executive Committee of the deans of the three colleges. The Executive Committee will establish a strategic vision for integrating the health programs, research, services, outreach and entrepreneurial activities, and allot a percentage of time devoted to strategic planning, development and fund-raising for the AHC. One of the deans will also be functioning as the Coordinating Dean for a renewable term of three years, with administrative responsibilities for the overall functioning of the AHC.

The Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation

The Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation will serve as the AHC's hub for collaboration and innovation with responsibilities for creating, promoting and supporting cross-disciplinary initiatives and innovations in education, research, service provision and entrepreneurial endeavors. While launching wide-ranging activities, the Institute will provide access to experts and a variety of supports as needed to promote these activities. The Director of the Institute for Integrated Health will report to the Executive Committee. Members of the University community from any discipline at the University who has an interest in integrated and innovative health may participate in the Institute.

The Office of Shared Services

The Office of Shared Services will be led by a director who reports to the Coordinating Dean. This office is envisioned to provide oversight and coordination of budgets, business operations, technology, data management, and contract management for experiential learning sites for the three colleges in the AHC. The Office will also provide administrative support for assessment, accreditation and related administrative responsibilities. In addition, this office will support the AHC in other administrative areas including assessment and accreditation.

Financial Considerations

The existing colleges of Nursing and Pharmacy, and the new college of Health Sciences are being moved into the AHC and the College of Human Science and Services is being dissolved. Resources from the existing colleges will be transferred to AHC and the closing of the College of Human Science and Services frees administrative and staff positions which will be used in the new College of Health Sciences. Therefore, no net new administrative structures, dean positions, or staff hires are anticipated. The Office of Shared Services will centralize and coordinate administrative support functions thereby eliminating duplication and reducing costs. Additional resources will be required for the Director of the Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation and for staff assistance. The collaborative has been designated to receive some of the 55 new faculty positions approved in the university's strategic budget

for the next four years including the faculty member who will be Director of the Institute. URI has received a \$750,000 gift endowment which will be allocated to the AHC and the yearly payout will be used to support graduate students. Implementation teams will work with the University Space Allocation Committee to determine the feasibility of relocating of departments into common spaces.

Staff review

OPC staff reviewed the Notice of Change from URI announcing the formation of the Academic Health Collaborative; creation of the College of Health Sciences; the transfer of Communicative Disorders, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nutrition and Food Science, Physical Therapy, Psychology, and the Health Studies Program into the College of Health Sciences; the creation of the Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation, the creation of an Office of Shared Services, and the closure of the College of Human Science and Services. The academic changes presented are within the mission, role and scope of the University and do not require Council approval.

