Statement to the Faculty Senate about Foods and Nutrition

Although the faculty in Foods and Nutrition, do not believe that our program statistics failed the benchmarks set by RU, we filed the necessary documents for the Expedited Program Review.

- Using the data provided by RU:
  - 450% of SCHEV mandated enrollment in program
  - 184% of SCHEV mandated number of graduates
  - 27% credit hour production at upper division (SCHEV requires 25%)
  - According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, dietitians and nutritionist positions are expected to increase at about average (9-13%); job prospects are good.

- In the document sent to the program review committee, we gave evidence of our centrality to the RU mission and vision, our alignment with the strategic plan, our involvement in the Core Curriculum and our role in the greater good of society.

- Minutes from the Program Review Committee had a number of errors and did not reflect an understanding of the program:
  - It is our understanding that Foods and Nutrition is the only program at RU with our current CIP code. We are not aware of any program in CEHD with the same CIP code. However, the existing CIP code is out of date.
  - We have not discussed the possibility of connecting with other RU majors such as gerontology, since we are unaware of the gerontology major. However, we have been in discussion with faculty in ESHE about the possibility of sharing a few classes, possibly 2 or 3.
  - We are accredited for a 10 year time frame (not 1 year). We just completed the 5 year midpoint progress report which was signed by Dean Linville and Provost Stanton in the fall. We are waiting final approval from the accrediting body of that report.
  - Rationale for discussing the Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise Department at VT was not given.
    - Information provided about the number of majors at VT as a comparison to RU is irrelevant.
      - The Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise department at VT is a consortium of programs with different CIP codes.
      - It includes 5 undergraduate majors, several concentrations within those majors and 25 full time faculty members.
      - RU’s FDSN program consists of a single concentration representing just one of those majors. We have distinguished our program with an emphasis in medical nutrition therapy, as opposed to a generalist or foodservice oriented program.

The faculty of the Foods and Nutrition program wish the following to occur:

1. Continue the realignment with ESHE. Although we were not involved in the decision initially, we are optimistic that this can be of mutual benefit.
2. Change the CIP code. We have requested this several times in the past, we are pleased that this is being considered now.
3. Approve the curricular changes, name change and institution of admission standards. These motions have passed at the college and some at the university level (others are pending). We ask that the provost approve them as well.
4. Allow us to re-fill the full time position which will be vacated this June. Although we understand other majors are down more than one faculty member, this represents 33% of our existing full time faculty positions. We have not been able to find adjuncts who meet all our criteria (MS and RD) and we are concerned what effect this will have on our accreditation. This year 43% of our credit hour production was taught by adjuncts, next year it will be even higher.
The Base Budget Adequacy Matrix projects five full time faculty are needed for our program; next year we will have two.

5. Support our efforts to investigate and potentially develop a 5 year masters degree. Our preliminary research suggests this could be accomplished without any additional faculty lines.