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January 21, 2013

Dr. David Barnard
President and Vice-Chancellor
Office of the President
202 Administration Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2

RE: MAHE RESPONSE TO UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA'S ACADEMIC STRUCTURE INITIATIVE

Dear Dr. Barnard,

The Manitoba Association of Home Economists (MAHE) is writing to voice concerns about the potential negative impact of options for the Faculty of Human Ecology in the University's ongoing academic structure initiative.

As you aware, Home Economists are a credentialed profession in Manitoba, recognized through Provincial legislation. Home Economists, many of whom are graduates from your Faculty of Human Ecology, work in all areas of the public, non-profit and private sectors to assist people in improving their quality of life. Their designation is a recognized skill set that takes an integrated and holistic approach to working with individuals and families in their homes, communities and countries across the globe.

The options for the Faculty of Human Ecology, as described within the Health Sciences cluster to date, are not acceptable to the continued practice and growth of home economics/human ecology in Manitoba.

Attached is a comprehensive position statement. MAHE is requesting that:

- The Faculty of Human Ecology and its holistic, multi-faceted education structured as Family Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary Health, Human Nutritional Sciences and Textile Sciences retain its identity, at a minimum as a college, within the proposed academic structure initiative. This is critical to enable the continued credentialing for the practice of Home Economics professionals. This is also critical to enable continued and improved educational programs that provide technically competent Home Economics teaching professionals; and,
- That MAHE be formally part of ongoing discussions. Engaging stakeholders, including employers, in the process will help the University ensure overall success and value in its academic structure initiative.

We look forward to meeting with you in person to discuss this, and will be contacting your office by January 31, 2013 to confirm a meeting date. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-897-4150 (home) or 204-791-0560 (cell).

Yours sincerely,

Debora Durnin-Richards, PHEc, M.Ed.

c Dr. Joanne Keselman, VP (Academic) and Provost
Dr. Gustaaf Sevenhysen, Dean Faculty of Human Ecology
Mr. Ray Karasevich, Secretary to Council on Post-Secondary Education