



Manitoba Association
of Home Economists

Box 582, Station Main, Wpg MB
R3C 2J3

mahe@mahe.ca

www.mahe.ca

An Association of Professionals, registered under the Laws of Manitoba

Debora Durnin-Richards, PHEc, M.Ed.
President
Manitoba Association of Home Economists
11 Kuypers Lane
Headingley, Manitoba, R4H 1K4

March 27, 2013

Dr. David Mandzuk
A/Dean Faculty of Education
Room 203-Education Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2

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

Dear Dr. Mandzuk,

On behalf of the MAHE Members who attended our meeting, March 8, 2013, I want to thank you for the time you gave us and your sincere effort to hear and understand MAHE's concerns and position regarding the University's academic structure initiative.

I would like to take this opportunity to summarize what we feel was accomplished with our conversation and learning from each other. I believe we understand better how the Faculty of Education relates to other Faculties such as Human Ecology. This relationship needs to be enhanced as we look to the labour market need for home economics educators. And I believe we have a better understanding about how MAHE can be involved in the promotion of and support to students who wish to get their Education degree as well as their degree from Human Ecology. We all agree how important it is to be able to identify, attract and support students with human ecology education in their career choice for teaching home economics to children in the school system; and that the pedagogy learned in Education is valuable in many ways to the professional practice of home economics.

With such a productive meeting, I would like to summarize what we consider are the outcomes:

- i. We discussed the steady and increasing demand for home economics education in the school system as has been documented by Dr. Joyce Slater's recent research. This is leading to a gap

in/shortage of qualified home economics teachers. This is particularly challenging for rural school divisions.

- ii. It was agreed that the human ecology program of study is important and that it needs to be identifiable within the new academic structure.
- iii. The most effective way for the above to be true, is for all departments of human ecology to remain as an identifiable unit situated within the same college/unit.
- iv. In addition, the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) courses specific to the home economics major and minor option are important to filling this need.
- v. Both the program of study for Human Ecology and the major and minor options in Education need to be promoted during student recruitment opportunities, need to be seen in the University Calendar and Startbook, and need to have Champions in both faculties responsible for the educational programs.
- vi. We believe that meetings between the two Faculties are needed to enhance the programs of study, research and student recruitment.
- vii. MAHE will work on ways to promote the professional practice of home economics to potential students, members, employers and consumers and can assist in encouraging teaching home economics as a career choice.
- viii. We believe that a closer relationship between student organizations from both faculties might prove to be valuable for all students involved. MAHE will approach HESO with the suggestion.
- ix. There may be some fruitful synergies with Director of School Experience, Melanie Jansen, in working with collaborating teachers and in new opportunities with the Beyond Classrooms initiative. A MAHE Member will be in contact with Melanie in the near future.
- x. MAHE will be making a formal request to the Minister of Education for a review and updating of the home economics and family studies curriculum. MAHE will promote the idea that an academic staff person from the Faculty with a keen interest in home economics participate in this review and update. MAHE will make the suggestion to the Minister.

MAHE sees you and your position as Acting Dean as an advocate for the human ecology/home economics educational program. And we understand that you wish to engage with the Dean of the Faculty of Human Ecology on the matter. By copy of this letter to Dean Sevenhuysen, I will introduce this topic to him and will follow-up with further communications.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to have a fulsome and productive meeting. MAHE looks forward to a closer relationship with the Faculty of Education, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Debora Durnin-Richards, PHEc, M.Ed.

- c Dr. Gustaaf Sevenhuysen, Dean Faculty of Human Ecology
 Getty Stewart, PHEc, B.Ed., MAHE Past President
 Joan Clement, President, Manitoba Women's Institute
 Alison Delf-Timmerman, PHEc, B.Ed., MAHE Member, MHETA Past President
 Dr. Marlene Atleo, PHEc, MAHE Member