TO: Dr. Deborah Whitehouse  
Chair, CHS Curriculum Committee

FROM: Donald L. Calitri  
Associate Dean, CHS

RE: Leisure Studies Department Name Change

DATE: June 18, 2002

I have attached a memorandum per Dr. Charlie Everett, Acting Chair, Department of Leisure Studies and faculty from the Department requesting a name change from “Department of Leisure Studies” to “Department of Recreation and Park Administration”.

Please consider this proposal at your next curriculum committee meeting and notify Dr. Everett so he can come and justify this title change to the original department name.

Enclosures: 1

cc: Dr. Charlie Everett, Acting Chair  
Sheila Adkins, AA for Leisure Studies  
Dean David Gale
Memorandum

To: Dr. David Gale, Dean
    Dr. Don Calitri, Associate Dean
    College of Health Sciences

From: Dr. Charlie Everett, Acting Chair
      Dr. Jon McChesney, Associate Professor
      Ms. Michelle Gerken, Assistant Professor
      Ms. Sherry Jones, Assistant Professor
      Department of Leisure Studies

Date: May 29, 2002

Subject: Proposal to change the Department name from “Department of Leisure Studies” to “Department of Recreation and Park Administration”

A majority of the faculty in the Department of Leisure Studies is requesting the name of the Department be changed from the Department of Leisure Studies back to its original title of Department of Recreation and Park Administration. We would like to raise several points which, in our view, provide a rationale for this request.

First, the faculty was not in support of changing the name to the Department of Leisure Studies in the first place. The former chair, initiated this proposal during the Phase II Reorganization process at EKU. A majority of the faculty believed the name was not an accurate reflection of the Department’s vision and goals at that time. A vote was taken that did not favor changing the name. However, after what the faculty considered to be much internal pressure and many meetings concerning the Phase II process, the faculty relented and agreed to change the name. Just prior to our defense of our Phase II proposal, the faculty voted again to withdraw the name change proposal (see attached). Again, the proposal went forward and the name was changed.

Second, after two new tenure-track faculty members were hired, Dr. Jon McChesney and Dr. Chris Jones, there was further discussion among faculty members about their dislike of the new Department name. They also felt that Leisure Studies was a difficult name to explain and confusing to students, especially potential new students. Further, they both expressed their concern that the name Leisure Studies significantly impacted student recruitment in a negative manner. Both Dr. McChesney and Dr. Jones were in favor of attempting to change the name back to its original title.

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Third, a rational for the name change presented by the former Chair argued that interdisciplinary collaborations with other academic departments in the College of Health Sciences would be strengthened by this title. It has been our experience that relationships established in the College have had nothing to do with the title of the Department. These relationships have come about because of shared academic interest and increased professional and personal relationships. We have found we spend a considerable amount of time attempting to defend the new department title within the College of Health Sciences, across campus, and to stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth.

Fourth, a second rational presented in the original name change proposal was that a number of academic departments nationwide include leisure in the title of their department. However, the majority (over 50%) of the recreation, parks, or leisure baccalaureate degree programs listed in the NRPA/AALR catalog of accredited degree programs do not use leisure in the title.

Fifth, since the name change we have surveyed our students, who overwhelmingly (95%) dislike the new title. We have randomly asked many of our internship agencies about the name change and the majority also prefers recreation and park administration. We also recently had our annual practitioner advisory council (see attached) meeting where 100% of the members supported the proposal to change the name of the department back to Recreation and Park Administration.

And finally, we believe the most deleterious outcome of having changed the name to Leisure Studies is a decline in majors. We believe the name is confusing to students and not understood as far as a major is concerned. Furthermore, it is confusing in the catalog and schedule books because the course prefix remains REC. At a time when the Department is making substantive improvements in teaching and scholarship at the undergraduate and graduate levels, our enrollment is decreasing. We are not implying this is the only reason for this decrease, but we feel it has contributed significantly to this drop.

Therefore, based on these reasons, we request to change the Department of Leisure Studies back to the Department of Recreation and Park Administration immediately.
1. Don Stosburg, Exec. Director  
   Kentucky Recreation Park Society  
   335 Main Street  
   Wilmore, KY 40390  
   (859) 858-3757

2. Wilson Francis, Park Manager  
   Natural Bridge State Resort Park  
   2135 Natural Bridge Road  
   Slade, KY 40376  
   (606) 663-2214

3. Wardell Johnson, Rec. Superintendent  
   Lexington-Fayette Urban Co. Parks/Rec.  
   545 Sayre Avenue  
   Lexington, KY 40508  
   (859) 288-2900

4. Cary Lyle, Director of Rec. Activities  
   Thomson-Hood Veterans Center  
   100 Veterans Drive  
   Wilmore, KY 40390  
   (859) 858-2814

5. Larry Ingra, CTRS  
   Drake Rehabilitation Center  
   151 West Galbraith Road  
   Cincinnati, OH 45216-1096  
   (513) 948-2735

6. Kristi Grabeel-Hamlin, CTRS  
   United Methodist Home  
   for Children & Youth  
   P.O. Box 749  
   Versailles, KY 40383  
   (859) 873 - 4481

7. Joe Bentley, Asst. Director,  
   Richmond Parks/Recreation  
   321 North Second Street  
   Richmond, KY 40475  
   (859) 623-8753

8. Laura McCauley, Coordinator  
   Department of Juvenile Justice  
   10510 LaGrange Road  
   Louisville, KY 40223  
   (502) 244-3663 (ext. 32)

9. Mardi Miller, Tourism Dir.  
   Richmond Tourism & Visitor Center  
   345 Lancaster Avenue  
   Richmond, KY 40475  
   (859) 626-8474

10. Lou Wommer, Director of RT Services  
    Cartas Peace Center  
    2020 Newbury Road  
    Louisville, KY 40205  
    (502) 451 – 3338 ext. 653