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Office of the President
December 13, 2011

Members, Board of Trustees:

CHANGE IN DEGREE – COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve a change in the name of the Bachelor of Health Sciences degree with a major in Clinical Laboratory Sciences to Bachelor of Health Sciences with a major in Medical Laboratory Science (CIP Code: 51.1005, PROG: BHS MLSC), effective in the Fall 2011 Semester.

Background: Clinical laboratory practitioners are those who perform, develop, evaluate, correlate, and assure accuracy and validity of laboratory information; direct and supervise clinical laboratory resources and operations; and collaborate in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. These individuals, as members of the health care delivery team, are responsible for assuring reliable and accurate laboratory test results which contribute to the diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, and prevention of physiological and pathological conditions in humans.

In 1928, the first certification agency for clinical laboratory personnel, the Board of Registry, was formed, and those certified were known as a “Medical Technologist” working in the new profession of medical technology. In 1933, a program in medical technology began at the University of Kentucky. In 1978, another certifying agency, the National Certification Agency for Laboratory Personnel, was also established; however, the agency referred to the profession as clinical laboratory science, and their certification title was “Clinical Laboratory Scientist.” In 1988, the Medical Technology Program at UK became the Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

In 2009, the two certifying agencies merged and became the Board of Certification. The certificate title was changed to “Medical Laboratory Scientist.” In order to be in compliance with the profession’s only certifying agency, it is necessary to change the name of the program from Clinical Laboratory Sciences to Medical Laboratory Science.

This proposal has the approval of the Health Care Colleges Council, Undergraduate Council, Senate Council, and University Senate. The provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____