

ASACR 7

Office of the President
December 14, 2021

Members, Board of Trustees:

CLOSURE OF EDUCATIONAL UNIT CENTER:
CENTER FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the following actions, effective July 1, 2022:

- Closure as an educational unit center and movement to administrative unit center designation for the Center for Interprofessional Health Education.
- Rename the administrative unit center as the Center for Interprofessional and Community Health Education, consistent with its assumption of responsibility for management of the Area Health Education Centers Program.

Background: The Center for Interprofessional Health Education (CIHE) was established in 2010 as the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education, Research and Practice. It was originally qualified as an educational unit “multidisciplinary research center” due to one of its goals to “foster research on interprofessional health care delivery.” In 2014, a committee charged by the provost reviewed the center and made recommendations which resulted in the movement of these research responsibilities to the Center for Health Services Research. This change effectively qualified CIHE as an administrative unit center, rather than an educational unit center, but this change in organizational status was not formally processed by the Board of Trustees.

In 2020, a team was charged by the provost and the chair of the CIHE Board of Directors to examine the functions of CIHE and the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, as the missions and many functions of the two units are synergistic and, in some cases, overlap. The team issued recommendations that have been endorsed by the provost and the CIHE Board of Directors. These recommendations include the closure of CIHE as an educational unit center, on the basis of programmatic, infrastructure and resource aspects, and movement of the unit to the administrative unit center designation. These recommendations also include renaming the unit to the Center for Interprofessional and Community Health Education (CICHE), as the administrative unit center will assume responsibility for the management of the AHEC Program.

A new director will be hired to oversee CICHE and charged with leading strategic planning efforts. As a result, staff positions may be impacted but will be communicated several months before the change to allow staff an opportunity to apply for updated positions, if it is determined to be necessary. The activities of faculty in relation to the center will continue as normal after the formal organizational change.

The proposed actions have been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee and the Senate Council, and; are scheduled to be reviewed on December 13 for approval on the academic program merits and endorsed on the organizational structure merits by the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other_____