

**Office of the
Vice Chancellor**

Health Sciences Division

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Edson Justiniano
Chair
Educational Policies and Planning Committee

FROM: Phyllis N. Horns, RN, DSN, FAAN
Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences

P. Norns

SUBJ: School of Dentistry Name Change

DATE: January 27, 2010

Attached is the request from Dr. Jim Hupp, Dean of the School of Dentistry, requesting that the title of the School of Dentistry be changed to the School of Dental Medicine. Also, attached is my letter endorsing my full support of this title change. I am forwarding this request to the Educational Policies and Planning Committee for review at their earliest convenience. Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you.

Attachments

Cc: Dr. Jim Hupp



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November 18, 2009

Chancellor Steve Ballard
East Carolina University
Spilman 105

Dear Dr. Ballard:

This letter is to endorse my full support of the School of Dentistry's request to make a change in title from the East Carolina University School of Dentistry to the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine.

The national trend in dental education is that schools are moving toward the more contemporary term, "Dental Medicine." Dental education is recognized as an integral part of medical care and dental educators understand the importance of dental students having the appropriate training in both dental and medical sciences. The School of Dentistry's mission is to prepare individuals with outstanding clinical skills, ethical bearing, and a strong desire to serve the un- and underserved citizens of our state and region. Our students will receive training in both medical sciences and dental sciences which is essential to their program of study as they will be in community and rural based settings providing dental care to patients that may have other contributing health issues. It is of utmost importance that our students have a thorough understanding of medical conditions and physical disabilities as they begin to develop care plans and diagnoses for their dental patients.

I understand that Dr. James Hupp, Dean of the School of Dentistry, and the School's faculty are in full support of this title change. I believe this title change is appropriate and will help move forward the mission of the Dental School and the University. Again, I am in full support of the East Carolina University School of Dentistry's request to change the title of the school to the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Phyllis N. Norns'.

Phyllis N. Norns, RN, DSN, FAAN
Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences



East Carolina University

1907-2007
CENTENNIAL

School of Dentistry

Dr. James Hupp, Dean
Professor of Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgery

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November 16, 2009

Dr. Phyllis N. Horns
Vice Chancellor, Division of Health Sciences
East Carolina University
600 Moye Blvd., Brody AD50
Greenville, NC 27834

Dear Dr. Horns:

I, as the founding dean of the dental school at East Carolina University with the support of our faculty, request a change for our planned school. This relates to the title of our school. I request that our title become the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine.

Institutions for professional education in dentistry began in the United States as proprietary trade schools in the early to mid-1800's. Dental education was basically an apprenticeship lasting a year or two, with little or no scientific foundation given to students learning to be dentists. The focus of these schools was entirely technical training. These trade schools were called Colleges or Schools of Dentistry or of Dental Surgery. The first university-based dental school was established at Harvard in 1867. It was called the Harvard Dental School. From that point on many universities began to offer dental education; however, proprietary trade schools of dentistry persisted.

A turning point came when the Carnegie Foundation sponsored a study by Dr. William Gies on the status of dental education. Dr. Gies was a professor of biochemistry at Columbia University. He was instrumental in having Columbia establish a dental school, then called the Columbia School of Dental and Oral Surgery. In his report, Dr. Gies was highly critical of the training that occurred in dental trade schools. It was not scientifically based and did not include instruction in basic medical sciences. They also did not require college preparation prior to beginning dental training. He advocated that dental education be required to occur after college preparation and education include basic medical sciences and only teach scientifically sound clinical therapies.

The result of the Gies report was that non-university-based dental schools closed down, while university-based dental schools continued to be opened. Most of these schools used the term College or School of Dentistry.

The next major change in the title of dental school occurred in 1940. Harvard President, James Conant, reorganized the Harvard Dental School into the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He did so "*to place stronger emphasis on the biological basis of oral medicine*

and to institute multidisciplinary programs of dental research. A unique feature of the curriculum placed dental students in joint classes with medical students for two years of basic science and pathophysiology, and for an introduction to clinical medicine on the wards of Harvard teaching hospitals and in community health centers." From this point on other dental schools in existence changed their name to Schools or Colleges of Dental Medicine; and many new dental schools that came into being also adopted the use of Dental Medicine in their title. This trend has continued, and since the 1960s only two dental schools in the United States have not used the terms "Dental Medicine" in their title; the exceptions being the University of Texas, San Antonio School of Dentistry that opened in 1970, and the A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health that opened in 2003.

The use of the term "Dental Medicine" in school or college names is not a regional trend. Schools across the country are doing this, both public and private. However, since the southeast part of our country has had the greatest growth in new dental schools, a majority of the schools in the south are titled Schools or Colleges of Dental Medicine. Also, in states where they have more than one public dental school that has opened since the 1960s, the newer school uses the terms "Dental Medicine."

This change to the use of Dental Medicine is because of the widespread appreciation that good oral health is essential to good overall health. Also, good dental care is an integral part of good medical care, rather than a separate, non-essential aspect of health care. The 2000 U.S. Surgeon's General's report on Oral Health highlighted the importance of good oral health care for all, "*since oral health means much more than healthy teeth. It means being free of chronic oral-facial pain conditions, oral and pharyngeal (throat) cancers, oral soft tissue lesions, birth defects such as cleft lip and palate, and scores of other diseases and disorders that affect the oral, dental, and craniofacial tissues, collectively known as the craniofacial complex. These are tissues whose functions we often take for granted, yet they represent the very essence of our humanity. They allow us to speak and smile; sigh and kiss; smell, taste, touch, chew, and swallow; cry out in pain; and convey a world of feelings and emotions through facial expressions. They also provide protection against microbial infections and environmental insults.*" Dental educators understand the critical importance of dental students having a sound understanding of the human body in normal and diseased states since what they do when they makes diagnoses and plan care must take the patient's overall health status into account.

Dental education, from an accreditation standpoint, must provide students with a strong basis in medical science. Our school at East Carolina University will have an even stronger reason to insure that our students are properly prepared in basic health science. That is because of our mission to send them into underserved parts of our state. Citizens in these areas regularly also are underserved for their other medical problems due to lack of access or poor health education. Thus, our students will commonly be treating sicker patients and must be ready for this aspect of their practice. The graying of all parts of our country will further accentuate this phenomenon.

Dr. Phyllis Horns
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Therefore, there are two major reasons for my request that we become the East Carolina School of Dental Medicine. The first relates to our special mission to prepare students to work on traditional less healthy individuals in underserved parts of North Carolina, requiring them to have robust training in the medical sciences in addition to the dental sciences. The second relates to the clear direction being taken nationally in dental education, in which new schools in the south and elsewhere are using the more contemporary terms, "Dental Medicine."

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Hupp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

James R. Hupp, DMD, MD, JD