MOTION:

That the School of Allied Health Professions at UW-Milwaukee, be renamed the "College of Health Sciences," a name that more accurately portrays, and clearly describes the broad array of academic programs, purpose and mission statement, and which is more consistent among similar units at academic research institutions across the nation.

RATIONALE:

The proposed name change from "School" to "College" is appropriate because of the number and diversity of undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered within a single academic unit. Unlike many "Schools" at UWM, and more similar to the two Colleges (L&S and CEAS), SAHP currently offers 11 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, with over 20 different programs (submajors, certificates & degrees) responding to seven different professional accreditation agencies. There are 4 masters degree programs is a Ph.D. and two professional doctoral programs (Au.D., DPT) pending approval by UWS. The programs and faculty within the School have evolved over the past 27 years to where it now more typically represents a college. The change from "Professions" to "Sciences" is more suitable because every one of the degree programs has a strong foundation in the natural and social sciences, and in the creation of new knowledge through research. Conversely, not all of the academic programs in the School are necessarily professional programs, but they are all science-based. UW-Milwaukee prides itself on being a research institution, and the term "Professions" inaccurately conveys technical or vocational training only. As we look forward to adding a doctoral program(s), the name change more accurately reflects our emphasis and will serve to be more attractive to the public, prospective students and assist in faculty recruiting. The new name will also significantly help increase the perception by federal funding agencies like NIH and NSF. It should be noted that the federal government recently removed the term "allied health" from the title of one of its organizational funding programs and replaced it with a more suitable name.

Current Confusion: It is clear that the current name "Allied Health" generates significant confusion and misunderstanding in the minds of prospective students, their parents, community leaders, and potential donors. When introducing the School or meeting with business and civic leaders, it is always necessary to explain what "Allied Health" is, and what we do as a School. Not only is this awkward and counterproductive, but very often misinterpreted as defensive and apologetic. A recent survey conducted on the UWM campus asked students, faculty, and visitors: "If you earn a degree from the UWM School of Allied Health Professions, what will you be educated, trained and/or prepared to do?" Over 85% of the responses did not know what "Allied Health" meant. Even correspondence often refers to the School incorrectly, as simply "Allied Health" leaving off "Professions". Decades ago, the term "allied health" was created and commonly used nationally, but the changing composition and approach to health today has rendered the term inappropriate and Schools are changing their name. It does not define the broadening scope of the health sciences found in UWM's programs in the human movement sciences, therapies, biomedical sciences, health care policy and administration, medical informatics
and diagnostic technologies. Rapidly expanding technological advances together with increased expectations by health care consumers will ensure continued growth and investment in the health sciences. A name that more obviously declares its purpose, leaving less room for ambiguity, will better serve students, faculty, and the institution.

By proposing the name College of Health Sciences, The School of Allied Health Professions does not propose to “own” everything related to health sciences. The School has a long history of collaboration and interdisciplinary activities with all of the other Schools/ Colleges on campus and we recognize the enormous amount of crossover that health has in Nursing, Social Welfare, Letters & Sciences, Engineering, Business, Education, Information Studies and others. The School welcomes the opportunity to strong collaborations with all of our colleagues in other units, but like each of these units, seeks to identify itself properly, in this case as the largest collection of health science programs that exist in Wisconsin and regionally.

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