**Written Objections from HD students submitted per the policy:**

**re discontinuance of 2 concentrations in the Human Development major**

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**1. Penny Wu**

**From:** Penny Wu <[wu014@cougars.csusm.edu](mailto:wu014@cougars.csusm.edu)>

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:56 PM

**To:** Vivienne Bennett <[vbennett@csusm.edu](mailto:vbennett@csusm.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: written objection

Yes I would like it to constitute an official objection per the policy. I want the 4 concentrations to stay as they are. I think that the human development major should included all walks of life.

Penny

On Tue, Mar 25, 2014 at 5:24 PM, Vivienne Bennett

Hello Penny,

Thank you for your email.  I will also send it to the Chair of Human Development, Dr. Bigham, so she can reply to you directly.

Here is the policy on Discontinuance of Programs: <http://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/Academic_program_discontinuance.html>

Please note that there is a two week window for formal objections to be filed. Students are allowed to file objections, which are sent to the Senate Chair (me) and the Provost. The deadline for sending objections is April 1, 2014. Sending an objection triggers the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to review the discontinuance proposal and several other steps.

Just to confirm: do you intend your brief email to constitute an official objection per the policy --- thus triggering the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to review the proposal for discontinuance? That is how I understand your email because of how you worded the subject line, but I want to be sure I am right. Please email me back to let me know, And if this is an objection per the policy then you must also notify Provost Oberem: <[oberem@csusm.edu](mailto:oberem@csusm.edu)>.

Best,

Vivienne Bennett

Chair, Academic Senate

**From:** Penny Wu <[wu014@cougars.csusm.edu](mailto:wu014@cougars.csusm.edu)>

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:22 AM

**To:** Vivienne Bennett <[vbennett@csusm.edu](mailto:vbennett@csusm.edu)>

**Subject:** written objection

Ms. Bennett,

I am writing you to object to the discontinuing the *Children’s Services and Adult & Gerontology Services Concentrations.* I think that Human Development should include all walks of life. I am currently a HD major with Children Service concentration. In my classes most of the student have the same concentration. I think that it would be at a disadvantage for the HD department to lose so many students to another major.  It would be hard for student to go through the psych major to get the same degree. I thank you for your time and ask you to please reconsider this decision.

Penny Wu

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**2. Jennifer Hart**

**From:** Jennifer Hart <[hart032@cougars.csusm.edu](mailto:hart032@cougars.csusm.edu)>

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:29 PM

**To:** Vivienne Bennett <[vbennett@csusm.edu](mailto:vbennett@csusm.edu)>, grahamoberem <[oberem@csusm.edu](mailto:oberem@csusm.edu)>

**Subject:** Written Objection Per Section III.A. in Regards to HD Major

This is a written objection per Section III.A. in regards to the HD major concentrations.

Dear Provost & Chair of the Academic Senate,

   My name is Jennifer Hart. I am currently a junior HD major (health services concentration). Though I am not majoring in one of the two tracks that are up for elimination, I think it's a shame that the idea has even gotten to the Senate. There are many aspects that are frustrating, when it comes to the school and it's support with the Human Development major as a whole. The Human Development major seems to be one of the most under-nurtured majors on campus and though that may or may not be the intention, it is evident to the students and making a detrimental impact on all HD students (regardless of their concentration). The fact that there has been an option to choose one of four concentrations was one of the most appealing aspects of HD. As well as the fact that the major is multidisciplinary, and hands on rather then strictly research based. Even though I have selected my track, I wish I could partake in all four because the more HD classes I take, the more interested I am in the major as a whole.

   Human development is completely different from psychology in a number of ways. I think its great that there's a possibility for a child development focus to open up in psychology but not when it's at the expense of our major. For the people who want to help others and pursue a career in an interactive & personal field, psychology is not the answer, human development is. Human development has a different perspective and provides us as students with skills from a social, psychological, scientific and developmental spectrum and viewpoint.

The fact that there are only a few classes that differentiate the Adult & Gerontology and Children Services from the Health Services and Counseling tracks is a short coming of the university itself. Those two disciplines along with the other two separate our university from the rest. After all, aren't we trying to be innovative and a forerunner of our time? Not to mention the fact that there is a "lack of interest", which again is a short coming of the university. To be honest, the counselors push the students to health or counseling. Not once out of my three years on campus had they even bothered to talk about the other two tracks. If all four tracks were evenly supported and endorsed we wouldn't have gotten to this point. The two tracks are vital to the university and should not be disregarded and eliminated.

Rather then eliminate these two concentrations I propose that the academic senate and university look into the HD department and revamp the major in order to create an equal appeal between all four focuses. That fact that the university is trying to force all the HD students into just two tracks is tragic, because this will generalize the two concentrations. Our major is intended to be "across the lifespan" and for the university to cut out not only the child focus but the elderly is completely unreasonable. The sad truth of it is that if the university isn't going to help teach about the elderly and their development this will only be reflected in our actual society. According to Healthy People 2020, (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicId=31>) the elderly are the fastest growing age group and by 2030 over half of them will have one or more chronic diseases. Do we want to be responsible for ignoring our elders? If we can't understand or if we don't have the knowledge to help them in their later years of development they will go unheard and we will have a huge issue as a society in the upcoming years. If this concentration (as well as the children's services) were expanded and supported from the university I guarantee that students will want to study and pursue a career in these areas. I beg you to add an gerontology class to either the lower division requirements or to the beginning of the upper division because it would spark much interest in the students. I hear time and time again from the students who took the gerontology course how much of an impact it made and how they gained not only knowledge but passion for the subject. It makes no sense that the university isn't providing gerontology courses for our HD - gerontology concentration. The same applies for the children services concentration.

There are 136 students currently how have not selected a focus. Imagine the amount of students who have yet to declare any major that would have interest in human development. If the university could help support the major we would be in better shape. This is an **amazing** major and I am so happy I stumbled upon it, because I too was a student who didn't know what I wanted to do. The professors within this department have so much passion and thrive on passing along their experiences and knowledge. It only takes one class to spark interest. I know from experience. I took HD 101 my freshmen year with Professor Eso and it was such a great class and experience. That's all it took for me to go online to the school's website and look into the major itself. Currently I'm in the new HD 370 course, Youth Violence and Prevention and it is by far the best course I have ever taken. The dynamics of it are amazing and Professor Soriano is so passionate and knows how to make connections with the students and the material. My question is why can't the university try to make this pairing for the other two concentrations by specializing specific classes and getting the professors we need to help our major?

Ultimately, I hope the academic senate chooses to keep these concentrations. It would be a disgrace to the school and us as students to take from our major and put more focus on the others. Please make the efforts to try to improve support for these concentrations and not to punish the students for the university's unintentional shortcomings. I **love**my major as do all the other students I know. I have always seen CSUSM as the new innovate forefront college of our time, after all isn't that what the school prides itself off of? (To provide a positive and unique learning experience, while gaining the proper skills and education we need to pursue our career goals). We have always stood out compared to other campuses and I believe the direction our school wants to head is fantastic. By keeping these concentrations it will keep the important diversity we have for our majors and areas of focus and will head aid us in the direction we wish to go as a university.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope the decisions made will be what is best for the students, the professors and the department as a whole.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Student

Jennifer Hart

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**3. Lorena Davies**

**From:** Lorena Davies <[davie013@cougars.csusm.edu](mailto:davie013@cougars.csusm.edu)>

**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 7:42 PM

**To:** Vivienne Bennett <[vbennett@csusm.edu](mailto:vbennett@csusm.edu)>

**Cc:** grahamoberem <[oberem@csusm.edu](mailto:oberem@csusm.edu)>, Elizabeth Bigham <[ebigham@csusm.edu](mailto:ebigham@csusm.edu)>, Fernando Soriano <[fsoriano@csusm.edu](mailto:fsoriano@csusm.edu)>, Denise Garcia <[dgarcia@csusm.edu](mailto:dgarcia@csusm.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Discontinuation of Adult & Gerontology Services & Children's Services

Thank you Dr. Bennett. Yes, the intention of my email was my official objection. I would like the HD department to keep all four concentrations.

Thank you,

Lorena Davies

On Mar 27, 2014, at 3:47 PM, Vivienne Bennett <[vbennett@csusm.edu](mailto:vbennett@csusm.edu)> wrote:

Hello Lorena,

Thank you for your email.

Here is the policy on Discontinuance of Programs: <http://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/Academic_program_discontinuance.html>

Please note that there is a two week window for formal objections to be filed. Students are allowed to file objections, which are sent to the Senate Chair (me) and the Provost. The deadline for sending objections is April 1, 2014. Sending an objection triggers the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to review the discontinuance proposal and several other steps.

Just to confirm: do you intend your email to constitute an official objection per the policy? Please email me back to let me know

Best,

Vivienne Bennett

Chair, Academic Senate

**From:** Lorena Davies <[davie013@cougars.csusm.edu](mailto:davie013@cougars.csusm.edu)>

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:31 PM

**To:** Vivienne Bennett <[vbennett@csusm.edu](mailto:vbennett@csusm.edu)>

**Cc:** grahamoberem <[oberem@csusm.edu](mailto:oberem@csusm.edu)>, Elizabeth Bigham <[ebigham@csusm.edu](mailto:ebigham@csusm.edu)>, Fernando Soriano <[fsoriano@csusm.edu](mailto:fsoriano@csusm.edu)>

**Subject:** Discontinuation of Adult & Gerontology Services & Children's Services

Hi Dr. Bennett,

I am writing to you in response to the email that was sent regarding the two Human Development Concentrations being discontinued. I am one of the students currently enrolled in the Aging & Gerontology Services Concentration.

In the email Dr. Bigham sent, it mentioned that the only difference between the Aging & Gerontology concentration was the SOC 427 class taught by Dr. Alicia Gonzales. This has been the most instrumental class for my major and I have learned so much already this semester. Other Non-Human Development students have even told me how important the class was to them. All of the issues that are talked about in this class are not mentioned at all in any of my other classes. In fact, I think the class is so important that it should be a requirement for all HD students since we are supposed to be studying the entire life span.

I'm deeply saddened and concerned that the Aging & Gerontology concentration is being discontinued because there is going to be so much job growth working with the older population in the future. I had a teacher once mention that most of us may not choose to work with seniors but that since the demand growth will be so high, many graduates will find themselves working with seniors in some aspect. More information about the degree and career potential should be highlighted for the students and then maybe more would enroll in the concentration. My service learning sites have all gotten very enthusiastic when I tell them about my major because they know the importance of specializing in working with seniors. I do not think I would have gotten the same response if I told them I had a Health Services concentration.

I think it does the Human Development department a big disservice to eliminate the Aging & Gerontology and Children's Services concentrations. Human Development is about the entire lifespan and it should reflect all ages not just Counseling and Health Services.

Thank you,

Lorena Davies

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**4. Tracy Hall**

**From:** Tracy Hall <[trhall@csusm.edu](mailto:trhall@csusm.edu)>

**Date:** Monday, March 31, 2014 7:42 PM

**To:** Vivienne Bennett <[vbennett@csusm.edu](mailto:vbennett@csusm.edu)>, grahamoberem <[oberem@csusm.edu](mailto:oberem@csusm.edu)>, Fernando Soriano <[fsoriano@csusm.edu](mailto:fsoriano@csusm.edu)>

**Subject:** Elimination of two HD concentrations

Dear Vivienne Bennett and Provost Oberem;

I am very concerned and saddened by the proposal to eliminate two of the four HD concentrations: Gerontology/Adult Services; and Children's Services. We are a lifespan major and eliminating these concentrations goes against our mission. It under serves our HD students, who are equally concerned and upset by this decision. Some, I know, have sent you e mails voicing these concerns.

Here are some of the reasons why we must keep all four HD concentrations:

* HD is to cover the entire lifespan and Gerontology/Adult Services and Children's Services cover very important parts of this span;
* The elderly is a growing population with ever increasing needs. To ignore the study and research into their specific needs fails to serve them and undercuts a population that has, in fact, paid for the strength of our program with years of tax dollars;
* Our theories course covers aging and our major requires service learning hours every semester. Many students work with the elderly for these hours and find it very rewarding. If we eliminate Gerontology as a concentration it is likely that students will no longer pick those sites that directly aid the elderly;
* These issues and observations equally apply to Children's Services. This effectively negatively impacts the two most vulnerable populations that require the greatest understanding and involvement from those committed to the HD major and related professions.
* One of HD's goals is to add more classes and faculty. HD has seen the demand for its classes grow over the last few years, which is instrumental in fulfilling CSUSM's community charter. Eliminating these concentrations will reduce overall demand for the campus and turn away from our charter. Inversely, adding classes in aging/gerontology and specific children's services would see an increase in class uptake and enhance CSUSM's standing.

I trust that you will take my (and others) concerns seriously when making this very critical decision. Please find this to be a formal objection per the policy.

Thank you,

Tracy Hall, Ed.D., MFT

Lecturer Human Development Department

California State University San Marcos