

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Faculty, Staff, and Students

**FROM:** Robert A. Altenkirch

**DATE:** September 15, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Establishing a College of Education;  
Initiating Men's and Women's Lacrosse

Later today, the UAH External Presidential Advisory Committee and the UAH Committee of the Board of Trustees will meet on campus. There are two items of discussion, of which many of you are already aware, that likely will generate media attention, so I thought I would brief you on them ahead of time.

**College of Education:** On Friday, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved the establishment at UAH of a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (grades 6-12) with licensure options in Biology, Biology/General Science, Chemistry, English Language Arts, Foreign Language, History, History/Social Studies, Mathematics, and Physics. These degree programs strengthen our current offerings in our Department of Education in the College of Liberal Arts that include the BA in Elementary Education, the MEd in Differentiated Instruction, and secondary disciplinary certifications.

Additionally, on September 19, the Board of Trustees will consider resolutions approving the establishment of a BS in Kinesiology at UAH and the assimilation of the Rise School of Huntsville, currently a non-profit pre-school operating on the UAH campus that serves children with developmental disabilities and children without disabilities. The Rise concept, Rise initially being an acronym standing for "Rural Infant Stimulating Environment," originated at The University of Alabama in the 1970's. The UAH Rise School would operate as an Outreach and Service Unit of Education.

The programs now currently in place in Education, the proposed BS in Kinesiology, and the proposed assimilation of the Rise School of Huntsville form the framework of a College of Education. As such, The Board of Trustees will consider a resolution at the September meeting establishing a College of Education at UAH comprising a Department of Curriculum and Instruction, a Department of Kinesiology, and the UAH Rise School. Offering our programs and outreach and service efforts in Education through a College of Education will align our structure with the other thirteen state universities, all of which have either a College/School of Education or include Education in a College/School title.

**Lacrosse:** Over the course of this past academic year, we have been

considering the possible addition of men's and women's lacrosse as an intercollegiate sport at the NCAA Division II level to complement our existing 15 Division II teams. According to US Lacrosse, lacrosse for more than a decade has been one of the fastest growing team sports in the US. In 2013, 750,000 players participated in organized lacrosse, and the number of high school players in 2013 approached 300,000. In 2013, 60 new collegiate programs were started with 39 in 2014. Lacrosse is the fastest growing NCAA sport for the last five years.

In Alabama, there are approximately 1,500 youth lacrosse players combined in the Huntsville Lacrosse Association and the Greater Birmingham Youth Lacrosse Association. Ten high schools in Huntsville and Birmingham combined play girl's lacrosse, and 4 Huntsville high schools and 12 Birmingham high schools play boy's lacrosse.

In assessing the benefits of providing an opportunity for youth interested in playing collegiate level lacrosse, and recruiting student-athletes from that pool, we have decided to add men's and women's lacrosse as an intercollegiate sport for the spring 2016 season playing as an independent as does Gulf South Conference member Shorter University. Discussions are taking place with the Conference Office regarding the possibility of additional Gulf South members adding lacrosse as well. Planning and recruiting for the spring 2016 season will begin this fall.

Thanks,

Bob