



# COLLEGE COUNCIL: RECORD OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OF KANSAS

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December 2023

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## Degree Name Modification

On December 13, 2023, the College Council took action to affirm modifications of degree/program names to better align with current classifications and to address some degree title shift that had occurred with the advent of online.

While I appreciate the motivation of the actions taken by the Faculty Senate and the College Council, I do have concerns. In stating these concerns I am not voicing my opposition to the actions taken, but I would like to go on record with these concerns.

Roughly stated, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) defines an academic program as an educational offering within an institution that leads to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential. This is a very loose definition and has caused issues with our non-financial reporting due to the crossover of programs, with different degree names, but with like content. Such as the residential psychology program and the online Bachelor of Science in Psychology, or the Bachelor of Science in Business program and the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA).

The creation of these differing names were largely the outcome of online marketing and our desire as an institution to be integral to our advertising. So, in saying we were offering a degree in psychology, it was interpreted that we had to have an *actual* degree in psychology – thus the advent of the Bachelor of Science in Psychology. The BBA, though materially the same as the Bachelor of Science in Business, was an attempt to attract those looking for an MBA track. Again, each was the outcome of a desire for integral marketing.

In taking the action to fuse programs back together, the pendulum may have swung too swiftly and too far. While the decision does, at least at some level, allow the College to remain under the radar for non-financial reporting with the Higher Learning Commission, we need to be careful that we are no less integral about the staffing of our programs, as we are about our degrees. The entire point of the HLC audit of faulty/degree offerings is to ascertain the College's commitment to maintaining staffing in alignment with its program offerings. A change of names does not alleviate this need.

A healthcare program or Criminal Justice Program needs specific and ongoing leadership regardless of the names associated with the degree. In *downgrading* these degrees, bringing them under the auspices of the Bachelor of Science, does not change the need for specific and informed oversight of the major.

I would ask that the Faculty Senate not lose sight of this need and specifically address the issue of oversight and staffing as part of the Quadrennial Review associated with each program.

The President *affirms* this action.

Respectfully,

Leonard F. Favara, Jr., Ph.D. (Rev.)  
President  
Central Christian College of Kansas