MEMORANDUM

Vice President Academic and Provost
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August 16, 2007

To: Senate
c/o Lisa Collins, Assistant Registrar, Senate and Curriculum Services

From: George A. Mackie
Vice President Academic and Provost *pro tem* George A Mackie

Re: Sunny Hill Health Centre B.C. Leadership Chair in Child Development

Recommendation:

I recommend that Senate approve the establishment of the Sunny Hill Health Centre B.C. Leadership Chair in Child Development, made possible by endowment funding from the B.C. Children's Hospital/Sunny Hill Foundation and the B.C. provincial government's Leading Edge Endowment Fund.

Rationale:

The B.C. Leadership Chairs were designed "to attract world class faculty to strengthen the province's capacity for innovative research and promote B.C. as a centre for cutting-edge research, enhancing economic development positioning the province as a leader in the knowledge-based economy." The Chair for Child Development was specifically and separately defined relative to chairs allocated in other research areas. Its purpose is to create new knowledge in how lived experience translates into developmental differences in children.

The holder of the Chair will take a leadership role in early child development that supports the building of a critical mass of investigators at UBC and the Child and Family Research Institute, and contributes to interdisciplinary research collaborations that draw on the growing body of knowledge in neurosciences, immunology, endocrinology, behavioural and social sciences, and habilitation/rehabilitation. This unprecedented integration of individual-level assessment and population-based research will create new knowledge in child development.

The Sunny Hill Health Centre B.C. Leadership Chair in Child Development will be located within the Human Early Learning Partnership in the College for Interdisciplinary Studies, with a joint appointment to be established in the Department of Pediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine.