

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAM IN HEALTH AND SPORT STUDIES TO
BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAM IN SPORT STUDIES**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies the Bachelor of Arts Program in Sport Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Executive Summary: The proposed name reflects the impending termination of the Department of Health and Sport Studies and the re-organization of the undergraduate program in Health and Sport Studies (Agenda Items 4h and 4j). This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies provides students with learning experiences in the promotion of health and the historical and cultural context of sport and physical activity. Students choose one of two emphasis areas – health promotion or sport studies. The sport studies curriculum provides students with the skills to understand the cultural significance of sport and its relationship to other social institutions, such as the media, economy, family, education, and politics. The health promotion curriculum blends natural science and social science approaches to focus on empowering individuals and building healthy communities through changes in lifestyle and the environment.
- ◇ **Comparable name at other institutions.** The term “sport studies” is sometimes a major within larger departments, whose title reflects the program: Exercise and Sport Studies (University of California, Santa Barbara); Exercise Science and Sport Studies (University of Tampa); and Kinesiology and Sport Studies (Eastern Illinois University). At some schools, the entire department is named Sport Studies (Ithaca College).
- ◇ **Goals of proposed name change.** The proposed name reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the field which has evolved from the merger of academic interests first developed in a variety of subfields, such as the sociology of sport, history of sport, anthropology of play, and sport literature.
- ◇ **Effect on students.** Continuing students who have declared the Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies as a major will not be negatively affected by the proposed change. All current students will be able to complete their program of study in Health and Sport Studies as outlined in the 2009-2010 University of Iowa General Catalog. Courses will be offered regularly by the faculty who currently teach the courses. This will be feasible because the proposed name change will continue the almost identical curriculum in the sport studies track. Some continuing students may choose the re-named program because it will communicate more clearly the focus of the student’s education and interests.

- ◇ Effect on resources. No new faculty, staff, or facilities will be required. The proposed program will move to the Department of American Studies because sport is a central and important aspect of American culture. The core courses will include one foundational course from the Department of American Studies as well as elective course options from American Studies, thus providing integration of the major with its new department as well as a broader context for the study of sport. The proposed reorganization will make better use of existing resources.

- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed program name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be implemented in Fall 2010. No new students will be admitted to the existing Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies for Fall 2010.