

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO TERMINATE IOWA CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON BOTANICAL DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to terminate the Iowa Center for Research on Botanical Dietary Supplements in the Nutrition and Wellness Research Center in the College of Human Sciences.

Executive Summary: Funding for the Center was not renewed in 2011. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. The proposed closure addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan Goal #8 "Iowa's public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive."

Background:

- ◇ Description of center. The Iowa Center for Research on Dietary Botanical Supplements was approved by the Board of Regents in January 2003 (Agenda Item G.D. 4r). The purpose of the Center is to offer a pre-doctoral training program at Iowa State University and a professional training program at the University of Iowa and to provide research experiences for undergraduates in public health, biological sciences, natural sciences, and statistics on both campuses. The Center links two complementary institutions and focuses their effort on important research on botanical supplements. This multidisciplinary Center includes scientists from the fields of horticulture, botany, biochemistry, molecular biology, toxicology, chemistry, medicinal pharmacology, nutrition, epidemiology, clinical medicine, and statistics.
- ◇ Rationale for proposed termination. The Center was created with funding from the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) and the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences. In 2007, the Center received funding from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and renewed funding from ODS. Between 2002 and 2011, the Center received \$17 million in funding. However, in 2011, the funding was not renewed. Therefore, the Center is no longer sustainable.
- ◇ Description of transition following closure. While some work continues related to the Center, it is anticipated that the research will lead to future investigator-initiated funding requests rather than center applications or center-scale work.
- ◇ Administrative structure. The Center, led by a director and associate director, includes approximately 50 faculty members, professional and scientific staff, and student researchers from a variety of disciplines. In most cases, the research work will continue, but outside of the Center's framework. The Center is administered solely by ISU. It provides funding to principal investigators, including those at the University of Iowa, under contract. No administrative organization will be needed upon closure of the Center.
- ◇ Cost savings. The administrative stipend associated with the Director's salary will be removed, which will result in an annual savings of \$5,000. No other university costs were associated with operating the Center.
- ◇ Anticipated impact on units. No impact is anticipated on other units at ISU as a result of the proposed closure.

- ◇ Internal review. An external advisory council associated with the Center has been notified of the non-renewal of federal funding for the Center and of ISU's request to the Board of Regents to close the Center. The proposal to close the Center has been shared with affiliated faculty and reviewed by ISU's Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed closure will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents.