

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN
HEALTH AND SPORT STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies in the Department of Health and Human Physiology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the Program resulted from a major reorganization of health and sport studies at the graduate level in 2010, including the termination of the Department of Health and Sport Studies. This request was 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 pursue “educational excellence and impact.” It also addresses Goal #8 of the Board’s Strategic Plan – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ Description of program. Students who complete the Master of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies gain expertise in health promotion with a focus on physical activity and health outcomes. Students are required to complete at least 34 semester hours of required and elective courses and may opt to earn the degree with a thesis or without a thesis. They may elect to focus on acquiring the analytical and research skills necessary to undertake doctoral work or may focus on professional development to acquire a specific skill set and certification to pursue employment in health promotion programs in the public or private sectors.
- ◇ History of program. In February 2010, the Task Force on Graduate Education described the Health and Sport Studies graduate programs as lacking sustainable viability and student interest and indicated that there was overlap with other graduate programs. The Task Force recommended that the focus areas be merged into other departments.
 - ⇒ In June 2010 (Agenda Item #4j), the Board of Regents approved the closure of the Department of Health and Sport Studies; the Master of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies was moved under the administration of the Department of Integrative Physiology.
 - ⇒ Also in June 2010 (Agenda Item #4h), the Board of Regents approved the renaming of the Department of Integrative Physiology to the Department of Health and Human Physiology which reflected the merger of integrative physiology and health promotion.
 - ⇒ While the Master of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies is currently administered by the Department of Health and Human Physiology, faculty members with expertise in sport studies were moved to the Department of American Studies.
- ◇ Reason for proposed termination. The termination of the Master of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies will be consistent with the 2010 reorganization. The expertise of the Health and Human Physiology faculty has shifted away from the psychology of sport and physical activity to a specialization in health promotion with a focus on physical activity and health outcomes and clinical exercise physiology and health promotion.

- ◇ Impact of proposed termination on programming. If the proposed termination is approved by the Board of Regents, suspension of admissions to the program will become effective immediately. However, the required courses for graduation will continue to be offered until the remaining students complete their degree.
- ◇ Five-year trend of enrollments and graduations. Between Fall 2006 and Fall 2011, there were 31 students enrolled; five students are still enrolled. Between 2007-2008 and 2011-2012, there were 29 graduates. It has been a low enrollment program but it has had a high graduation rate.
- ◇ Impact on resources. The faculty members who participated in this program are also assigned to other programs in the Department of Integrative Physiology. Therefore, no reductions in faculty, staff, or facilities are anticipated. There will be minimal administrative cost savings.
- ◇ Impact on workforce. The proposed program termination is not expected to affect the workforce needs of the state because other programming is available in the area of integrative physiology.
- ◇ Alternative programming. Students interested in the related area of health promotion with a focus on physical activity and health outcomes will be able to pursue this interest through the proposed Master of Science Program in Health and Human Physiology at the University of Iowa. Somewhat similar programs are available at Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa. ISU provides a Master of Science Program in Kinesiology which offers advanced study in the science of human physical activity, particularly as movement, exercise and sport apply to health promotion and disease prevention. UNI provides a Master of Arts Program in Health Education with three emphasis areas – health promotion/fitness management; community health education; and school health education.
- ◇ Effect on current students. Currently, there are five students in the program. They will have the opportunity to complete their degree under the requirements of the Master of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies. They will also have the option to switch to the Master of Science in Health and Human Physiology. It is anticipated that the remaining students will complete their degree at the end of the 2012-2013 academic year.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, it will become effective upon completion of the program by the five students who are currently enrolled.