

Contact: Rachel Boon

CENTER CLOSURES

Action Requested: Recommend approval of institutional requests to close centers and institutes.

Executive Summary: Board of Regents policy 3.7.G requires centers or institutes that support the research and service mission of the institution go before Academic Affairs Committee with requests for closure. The impact on the institutional teaching commitment, financial resources and external stakeholders are key considerations.

Iowa State University requests closure of the following centers and institutes:

- Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products
- Center for Carbon Capturing of Crops
- Center for Sustainable Environmental Technologies
- Midwest Forensics Resource Center
- Nutrition and Wellness Research Center

The University of Iowa requests closure of the following centers and institutes:

- Center on Aging
- Confucius Institute
- Institute of Public Affairs
- Iowa Center for Assistive Technology and Research
- Labor Center

Additional information on each of these is on the following pages.

Iowa State University

Name of unit: Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products (BIGMAP)

Description of unit: BIGMAP provides science-based, unbiased and socially relevant analysis of the risks and benefits of genetically modified plant and animal products.

Rationale for request to close: Federal appropriations for BIGMAP were discontinued. Since 2009, the Seed Science Center has conducted the activities of BIGMAP. Dr. Jeff Wolt directed this work. He retired in July 2018 at which time his responsibilities were discontinued.

Impact of closure: Work that was being done by BIGMAP is transitioning to other faculty, as needed. The infrastructure for BIGMAP will be absorbed by the Seed Science Center. Cost savings are realized through the retirement, and the salary is being reabsorbed into the college to address budget reductions. There should be no negative impact on other units.

Proposed date of closure: Upon Board of Regents approval.

Iowa State University

Name of unit: Center for Carbon Capturing of Crops (C2C2)

Description of unit: The C2C2 was established in 2008 to conduct discovery and translational research needed to develop crops that are capable of sequestering atmospheric carbon to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide as a way to address global climate change.

Rationale for request to close: The center has been inactive for several years as the activities were incorporated into other programs, or reached their conclusion. Several key faculty either moved into other areas or left Iowa State University.

Impact of closure: Because C2C2 has been inactive, there is no administrative structure in place. There are no administrative staff, thus the elimination of this center will not result in any cost savings.

Proposed date of closure: Upon Board of Regents approval.

Iowa State University

Name of unit: Center for Sustainable Environmental Technologies (CSET)

Description of unit: The CSET, formerly known as the Iowa State Mining and Mineral Resources Research Institute (created in 1979), develops and demonstrates renewable energy and chemical technologies, and environmental technologies related to fossil fuels. The Board of Regents approved the name change to CSET in 1994.

Rationale for request to close: The CSET was incorporated into the Bioeconomy Institute (BEI) in 2014, and the research conducted by CSET continues within the BEI still today.

Impact of closure: The transition occurred in 2014, with all transition costs paid by BEI funds at that time. ISU staff in the BEI continue to perform the work of the unit. Upon Board approval, this action will just remove CSET from the list of Board-approved centers.

Proposed date of closure: Center activities fully transition in July 2014. Formal closure will be effective upon Board of Regents approval.

Iowa State University

Name of unit: Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC)

Description of unit: The Midwest Forensics Resource Center was founded in 2002 and initially funded through directed and competitively awarded funds submitted either through the Ames Lab or Iowa State University (ISU). The MFRC has not received any direct support from either Ames Lab or ISU. The revenues generated from MFRC's sponsored projects provided the operating revenues for administrative support. The director's and other staff salaries were mainly covered entirely by funded projects.

The MFRC initially worked under the operating umbrella of the Ames Lab, but since July 2014 it was treated as an ISU-based center and reported directly to the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Rationale for request to close: The director left in 2015 and there have been no MFRC activities since. In May 2015, ISU received a \$20 million award to establish a new, national center for forensic science: the Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Science (CSAFE) from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). CSAFE has absorbed the mission from MFRC with NIST approval.

Impact of closure: There are currently no MFRC personnel or space to be vacated. No funds are allocated, so there are no cost savings to be realized. Since the director's departure, duties and functions have been assumed by CSAFE staff.

Proposed date of closure: Upon Board of Regents approval.

Iowa State University

Name of unit: Nutrition and Wellness Research Center (NWRC)

Description of unit: The NWRC was created in 2006 to promote economic development by establishing a human-subject compatible research environment for testing and development of value-added food products, health aides, and exercise and dietary supplements. Originally, NWRC reported jointly to the Office of the Vice President for Research and the College of Human Sciences.

Rationale for request to close: Over time, the NWRC evolved into an interdisciplinary research lab facility at the ISU Research Park. It is administratively managed by the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and the College of Human Sciences. There is currently no need for a separate administrative center for the NWRC. There are no administrative personnel or infrastructure dedicated solely to this unit. Research and educational efforts of the lab are managed by the technical staff members in the department, similar to other departmental research and teaching labs. The facility is of significant value for research given its location in the Research Park which allows subjects free parking and convenient access not possible in other campus locations. The unique facilities include a metabolic kitchen, exercise testing areas, body composition analysis equipment, blood drawing and body fluid collection equipment, and a sample analysis laboratory.

Impact of closure: The unite transformed into an active research and teaching lab in 2014 and will continue to operate as such within the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. There is no administrative infrastructure to support the NWRC, and there is no financial impact to the closure.

Proposed date of closure: Upon Board of Regents approval.

University of Iowa

Name of unit: Center on Aging

Description of unit: The Center on Aging is an interdisciplinary resource for aging-related interests and activities throughout the University community and state of Iowa. Center activities include providing educational opportunities for seniors, caregivers, and practitioners through the Health Resource and Services Administration-funded Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, patient care through the Geriatric Health Assessment Clinic, and research through the Aging Mind and Brain Initiative.

Rationale for request to close: The University is closing some centers, institutes, and programs that receive General Education Funds and whose activities do not directly support University of Iowa student education.

The Center on Aging's primary activity focuses on providing educational outreach to the state of Iowa. The Center also facilitates clinical and research activities. It was determined that these activities could be incorporated into other units on campus and that closing the Center on Aging would have minimal impact on student education at the University of Iowa.

Impact of closure: The Center's federally-funded educational outreach activities will continue through the College of Nursing and other collaborating colleges, clinical activities through the Carver College of Medicine and College of Nursing, and research activities through the Aging Mind and Brain Initiative and other groups on campus with related interests. The director will remain in a tenured faculty position and the program coordinator's position was eliminated. Recurring General Education Funds will be reallocated within the Carver College of Medicine.

Proposed date of closure: Center activities ended on July 1, 2018 and will be closed upon Board of Regents approval.

University of Iowa

Name of unit: Confucius Institute

Description of unit: The Confucius Institute works to bridge the gap between the US and China by promoting cultural understanding through cross-cultural communication and dialogue. The Confucius Institute offers lowans courses in Chinese language and culture and plays a leadership role in international Chinese Foreign Language research and teacher development.

Rationale for request to close: The University is closing some centers, institutes, and programs that receive General Education Funds and whose activities do not directly support University of Iowa student education.

The Confucius Institute's primary activity focuses on providing outreach to the state of Iowa by offering Chinese language and culture courses. It was determined that these activities could be discontinued and that closing the Confucius Institute would have minimal impact on student education. The contract for the Confucius Institute will not be renewed upon its expiration on July 31, 2019. Chinese language classes will not be offered to high school students and language and culture courses for Iowa residents will be discontinued.

Impact of closure: Two staff coordinator positions will be eliminated. Recurring General Education Funds will be reallocated within the University of Iowa.

Proposed date of closure: With Board approval, the Institute will close on July 31, 2019.

University of Iowa

Name of unit: Institute of Public Affairs

Description of unit: The Institute of Public Affairs provides information and services to assist in maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness of Iowa's state and local governments. The Institute of Public Affairs was housed in the College of Law and was staffed by a director and a program coordinator.

Rationale for request to close: The University is closing some centers, institutes, and programs that receive General Education Funds and whose activities do not directly support University of Iowa student education.

The Institute of Public Affairs' primary focus is providing outreach and service to the state of Iowa. It was determined that closing the Institute would have minimal impact on student education at the University of Iowa.

Impact of closure: The Iowa League of Cities is serving as a contact point for services formerly provided by the Institute. The director retired in May 2018 and the program coordinator's position was eliminated. Recurring General Education Funds were reallocated within the College of Law for student scholarships.

Proposed date of closure: Institute activity ended on May 11, 2018 and will be closed upon Board of Regents approval.

University of Iowa

Name of unit: Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research

Description of unit: The Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research is a technology and universal design resource for all members of the education community across the state, regionally, and nationally to build learner capacity, and increase access to learning opportunities. The Center helps students, teachers, counselors, families, and others who work with people with disabilities.

The Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research is housed in the College of Education and is staffed by a director and two quarter-time research assistants.

Rationale for request to close: The University is closing some centers, institutes, and programs that receive General Education Funds and whose activities do not directly support University of Iowa student education.

The Iowa Center for Assistive Technology's primary focus is providing outreach and service to the state of Iowa. It was determined that these services are offered elsewhere on campus to support UI students.

Impact of closure: The Center will cease assistive technology consultations to families, individuals, and education agencies by June 30, 2019. . One research assistant position was eliminated and the full-time director and other research assistant position will be eliminated upon closure. Recurring General Education Funds will be reallocated within the College of Education.

The UI will continue to support UI students and faculty through Student Disability Services and Faculty and Disability Services.

Proposed date of closure: With Board approval, the Center will close on June 30, 2019.

University of Iowa

Name of unit: Labor Center **(revised: September 17, 2018)**

Description of unit: The Labor Center conducts a wide range of non-academic credit educational programming for adult workers and their organizations across the state. In addition, the Labor Center conducts applied research; engages in community partnerships, outreach events, and special projects related to labor issues; provides information on labor and workplace issues to faculty, students and the public; and mentors students interested in careers in labor-related fields.

The Labor Center is housed in the College of Law and staffed by six full-time employees.

Rationale for request to close: The University is closing some centers, institutes, and programs that receive General Education Funds and whose activities do not directly support University of Iowa student education.

The Labor Center's primary activity focuses on providing educational outreach to the state of Iowa. It was determined that these activities could be eliminated and that closing the Labor Center would have minimal impact on student education at the University of Iowa.

Impact of closure: The Center's educational programs and courses for external constituencies will be eliminated and state-wide outreach programs will be reduced over the next year. The federally funded grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the Iowa Labor Oral History Project that runs through June 30, 2020 will need to be housed in another unit of the university, to be determined in conjunction with NEH officials. One staff position is fully funded by this NEH grant.

The director position and the other four staff positions will be eliminated upon the center closure. Recurring General Education Funds will be reallocated within the College of Law to support programs related to student and faculty success.

The University Libraries has the capacity to administer the Library of Congress American Folklife Center Archie Green Fellowship. No impact is anticipated on other UI units. Programming is offered outside of the University by Iowa OSHA, Iowa Workforce Development and private consulting firms to constituents.

Proposed date of closure: With Board approval, the Labor Center will close on June 30, 2019.