

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by Iowa State University to change the name of the Department of Health and Human Performance in the College of Human Sciences to the Department of Kinesiology.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed name recognizes the national trend to use the name “Kinesiology” for the discipline, particularly among the highest-ranked universities and doctoral programs. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. The proposed name is consistent with similar departments in peer institutions.

**Background:**

- ◇ Kinesiology is the study of human movement and physical activity. The focus of the Department of Health and Human Performance, as stated in its mission, is to “promote health and well-being by creating and disseminating knowledge about physical activity and active living.”
- ◇ The National Research Council now includes “Kinesiology” as a discipline under “Life Sciences” in its review of U.S. doctoral programs.
- ◇ A published survey<sup>1</sup> revealed that 24 of the 60 departments offering doctoral degrees in Kinesiology (or related titles) have department titles which include Kinesiology.
- ◇ In a recent ranking of doctoral programs in Kinesiology<sup>2</sup>, 15 of the top 20 ranked departments use Kinesiology in their department name. ISU’s department was one of the five programs in the top 20 that did not use that title.
- ◇ Of the seven Big 20 departments that were listed in the top 20, all used Kinesiology in the department name.
- ◇ Of the three Big 12 departments that were listed in the top 20 (University of Texas – Austin, Texas A & M University, and Iowa State University), only ISU did not use Kinesiology in the department name.

Details about the proposed name change are available in the Board Office.

---

<sup>1</sup> Thomas, Morrow, & Stevermer, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas & Reeve, 2006.