

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN  
THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT 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 Third World Development Support.

**Executive Summary:** The request to terminate the Program is based on the fact that student interest did not materialize as originally expected. Admissions to the program were suspended in Fall 2002 and there are no current students. 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 strategy (4.1.1) to "pursue opportunities to realize greater efficiency in operations, consistent with best practices in the delivery of education and other services."

**Background:**

- ◇ **History of program.** The Master of Arts Program in Third World Development Support was implemented by the University of Iowa in 1993 as an interdisciplinary program. Prior to the creation of the program, sub-tracks had been offered to students using faculty and resources from existing units. There were no increased costs as a result of the new program because it used existing resources.
- ◇ **Suspension of admissions.** After new admissions to the program were suspended in Fall 2002, an emphasis in international studies was offered beginning in Fall 2003, as part of the Master of Arts Program in Interdisciplinary Studies. The emphasis in international studies broadened the opportunity for students, including those previously served by the Master of Arts Program in Third World Development Support, to pursue interdisciplinary work at the University.
- ◇ **Effect on current students.** There are no students currently enrolled in the program so a transition for current students will not be necessary. There have been no program enrollments since 2005.
- ◇ **Program resources.** The Master of Arts Program in Third World Development Support used existing curriculum, faculty, and administrative structure of International Programs with few direct costs. Therefore, no cost savings are anticipated as a result of terminating the program.
- ◇ **Alternatives for students.** The University of Iowa has requested approval of a Master of Arts Program in International Studies (Agenda Item 2o). The proposed program is expected to serve students formerly attracted to the Third World Development Support Program.