

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS
TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to suspend admissions temporarily to the graduate programs (M.S. and Ph.D.) in Family Consumer Sciences and Education.

Executive Summary: The request to suspend admissions temporarily to the Graduate Programs is based on the need to assess and possibly realign the ratio of teachers to graduate committees. The existing faculty members currently chair the maximum number of committees allowed by informal graduate college policy. A temporary suspension of admissions will permit the department to decrease faculty workload, increase the quality and quantity of attention given to each student, and evaluate alternative organizational structures, academic quality, and long-term vitality. There were no objections to the proposed suspension of admissions to the program. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request is consistent with the Board of Regents' 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:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The graduate programs for Family and Consumer Sciences and Education consist primarily of the Leadership Academy which offers a blended course of study, including intensive summer courses, distance education courses available throughout the academic year, and research requirements. An on-campus, residential option is also available.
- ◇ **Current committee ratio.** Currently, there are 48 graduate students in the program and only three faculty members (two are tenured and one is untenured). Each faculty member chairs an average of 15 graduate committees, most of which are for Ph.D. candidates. The maximum number of committees allowed by informal graduate policy for a faculty member to chair is 15. Other concerns include time to completion in the program and faculty burden.
- ◇ **Departmental review.** A departmental review, scheduled during 2007-08, will include an assessment of the graduate programs' organizational structure, admission criteria, enrollment limits, market demand, educational experiences, and related issues. Recommendations will guide decisions about future directions and modifications of the graduate programs.

Details about the proposed suspension of admissions are available in the Board Office.