

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SPORT STUDIES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

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

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the department results from a proposed reorganization to move the department's three tenured faculty members to other academic units. 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 provide "educational excellence and impact."

Background:

- ◇ **Description of department.** The Department of Health and Sport Studies offers a Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies with two selective admissions tracks – health promotion and sport studies. There are currently 181 undergraduates in the program and 115 students hoping to be admitted to one of the selective tracks within the major. The department also offers a Master of Arts Program and a Ph.D. Program in Health and Sport Studies, with students focusing on one of two specialization areas – psychology of sport and physical activity or sport studies. There are a total of 37 graduate students in these programs.
- ◇ **Description of change.** The two tracks within the Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Sport Studies will be split and revised and moved to a different department. The health promotion track and one faculty member will be moved into the Department of Integrative Physiology because these programs and faculty share a study of human physiology. The sport studies track will be moved to the Department of American Studies. This change will add students and two faculty members to this smaller department, creating a stronger unit and providing a broader context for the sport studies major.
- ◇ **Cost savings.** Enrollments will not be reduced because the academic programs and their associated faculty will be moved into other departments. Administrative costs will be saved because the current chair of the department is retiring and will not be replaced. The associated staff members will be moved with the programs.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** The reorganization will assure the continuation of the educational programs, strengthen the programs as well as the new administrative departments, and help in retention of students.
- ◇ **Effect on current students.** All continuing undergraduate students will be permitted to complete the major's requirements as listed in the 2009-2010 University of Iowa General Catalog. Graduate students currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program will be able to complete the program because the necessary graduate coursework will continue to be offered and existing tenured faculty with expertise in the graduate program will be available to mentor those students. Graduate students currently enrolled in the Master of Arts Program will not be affected by the termination. The graduate programs will be administered by the Graduate College.
- ◇ **Effective date of termination.** If the proposed department termination is approved by the Board, it will become effective immediately.

Proposed Changes Requested in Forms A, F, G

