REQUEST FOR A NEW SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA: SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to create a School of Health and Human Sciences in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this request.

**Reason for proposed change.** Through recommendations that emerged from the internal University of Northern Iowa process of academic positioning, UNI is proposing to create a new school focused on health-related programs. The purpose is to bring together existing programs that currently span multiple colleges, as well as house the new nursing program. It will also build an outward-facing identity to support enrollment growth, given the strong interest from students in health-related majors and the high demand for health professionals in Iowa. Currently, health related majors are the most cited area of interest among students who apply to UNI. This change will strengthen marketing, recruitment and advising; make it easier for prospective students to find their intended major; and reduce redundancies in recruitment and advising structures. The new school will also create synergy between existing programs and faculty by enhancing academic programs, faculty scholarship and community outreach.

**Effect on program configuration.** The new alignment of programs is organizational in nature, and does not directly impact current programs of study at this time. The new school will encompass four departments:

- Department of Family, Aging, and Counseling (see accompanying Form G, a reconfiguration of a current department)
- Department of Kinesiology and Athletic Training (see accompanying Form G, a merger of an existing department and program, with a new name) A future streamlining of curriculum to stem from this merger is anticipated, however that will not impact current students.
- Department of Nursing and Public Health (*the nursing program is currently in the planning stages, undergoing applications for accreditation through HLC and ACEN)
- Department of Social Work (no other changes)

The programs in athletic training, kinesiology, and public health will move from the College of Education to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The number of faculty appointments will remain the same.

**Effect on students.** These changes will have a minimal, but positive impact on current students. No existing majors are being eliminated and all students will be able to continue, uninterrupted, in their programs. The school will help build new affinities among students. Currently health programs are housed in different colleges, and bringing them into a single school will help students find new connections, networks, and better prepare them for a wider range of career options. Changes to advising structures will also improve the student experience. New students to UNI will see improved access to information during campus visits and more holistic onboarding and advising during their first year.
**Effect on accreditation.** The school itself will not be accredited; however, all current program accreditations will be maintained.

**Effect on resources.** Except for nursing, the departments and/or programs already exist, and the reorganization of the school is expected to reduce administrative costs. New resource needs associated with nursing have been identified and were presented when that program was approved by the Board of Regents earlier this spring. With the creation of the new school, there are also discussions about planning for advising needs. Although those changes are not likely to add appreciable costs, they may result in further reorganization of our advising structures.

**Date of implementation.** July 2023.