

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in the Carver College of Medicine to the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and the name of the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Physiology and Biophysics to the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics.

Executive Summary: The proposed name will more accurately reflect the curriculum offered to graduate students in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. This request has been reviewed by the Council of Provosts and the Board Office and is recommended for approval. There are no objections to the name change.

Background:

- ◇ The Department of Physiology and Biophysics is one of six basic science departments in the Carver College of Medicine. In addition to its instructional role in the training of professional students in medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and the physician assistant program, the Department has a history of research in molecular and cellular physiology.
- ◇ The research in the Department has evolved since its original designation as physiology and biophysics more than 100 years ago. Currently, every faculty member is actively engaged in the analysis of the molecular basis of fundamental processes in cell physiology. The name change would reflect this evolution in research.
- ◇ The new degree designations will more accurately reflect the studies undertaken by graduate students in departmental laboratories. In addition, the department will be able to compete more effectively for graduate students.
- ◇ The designation Molecular Physiology and Biophysics is used by a number of institutions, including Baylor University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Vermont.
- ◇ No additional funds will be required for this change.
- ◇ The University has not proposed any programmatic changes.

Details about the name change are on file in the Board Office.