

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR ELIMINATION OF A DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
DEPARTMENT OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to eliminate the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Carver College of Medicine and merge its responsibilities into the Department of Surgery.

University of Iowa Health Care, the Council of Provosts and Board office staff have reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Background:

Description of department. The department was formed in 2005 from a division within the Department of Surgery. At the time it was felt that the development of a separate department would be better for recruitment and retention of key leaders in the field.

Reason for proposed elimination. The administrative functioning of the department has been difficult. The number of faculty is small and includes subsections (adult cardiac, pediatric cardiac and thoracic), each with a leader. Upon the departure of the chair, the chair of the Department of Surgery has served as interim chair. There is no functional reason to keep them separate, and there is opportunity for administrative cost savings by combining the departments.

Impact on resources. There will be cost savings by eliminating a department chair role that included an administrative differential salary. There will be no change in support staff.

Impact on students. There is no direct impact on students, but improved functional interaction among specialty areas is likely.

Effective date of elimination. Upon decision by the Board of Regents.