

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN HEALTH AND HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY TO
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Bachelor of Science Program in Health and Human Physiology to the Bachelor of Science Program in Human Physiology.

Executive Summary: The proposed name change reflects the content and goals of the program. This request has been 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 pursue “educational excellence and impact.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of department.** In June 2010 (Agenda Item 4h), the Board approved a name change for the Department of Integrative Physiology and the Bachelor of Science Program in Integrative Physiology to the Department of Health and Human Physiology and the Bachelor of Science Program in Health and Human Physiology. The name changes stemmed from the merger of integrative physiology and health promotion. In addition, the Board approved the creation of a Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Human Physiology (Agenda Item 4i).

The *Bachelor of Science Program in Health and Human Physiology* appeals to students who want a strong background in the sciences, in related cognate areas, and through hands-on laboratory experiences. This competitive-admission degree is intended for students who wish to pursue rigorous study of human physiological systems with career interests in the health professions (e.g., medicine, physical therapy, dentistry) or biomedical research.

The *Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Human Physiology* has two academic plans of study from which students may select – (1) a competitive-admission track in Health Promotion and (2) an open-admission track in Health Studies. Both tracks provide a range of educational opportunities for students, offering flexible options in the high-demand area of bio-behavioral health. This program prepares students for careers in health education, wellness, public and global health, and other service-oriented careers in the health sciences.

- ◇ **Reason for proposed name change.** Professional and graduate schools that handle student applications have asked the Department of Health and Human Physiology to clarify the name of the Bachelor of Science Program in Health and Human Physiology so that it can be distinguished from programs in health education. The University’s Academic Advising Center and currently enrolled students in the program have also asked for a clarification. The proposed name change will accurately reflect the content and goals of the program and distinguish it from the Bachelor of Arts Program in Health and Human Physiology.

- ◇ Comparable name at other institutions. The Department of Kinesiology at Iowa State University offers multiple tracks within its major; each track is distinguished by titles suggesting their corresponding professional programs (e.g., Exercise Science-Medicine or Health/Fitness Management), suggesting one method of alerting students to a program's intended professional preparation. UNI offers a Health Promotion program in the Division of Health Promotion and Education with "health" in the title indicating its focus on health education and service rather than on a more technical profession. The alignment of the word "health" with careers requiring a more generalized background is a recent development; therefore, the names of many university programs are not yet necessarily indicative of the growing national perception.
- ◇ Impact on program configuration. The University has indicated that no program configuration changes will occur as a result of the proposed program name change.
- ◇ Effect on students. Students will not be adversely affected by the change. A clear name for the program will help students choose the right academic program for their intended career goals and will facilitate their admission into graduate or professional school.
- ◇ Effect on resources. No new faculty, staff, or facilities will be required as a result of the proposed name change.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed program name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the 2012-2014 University General Catalog.