

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST FOR CENTER CLOSURE: CENTER FOR PLANT RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES

Action Requested: Recommend approval of Iowa State University's request to close the Center for Plant Responses to Environmental Stresses

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

Background: Board of Regents policy 3.7.G requires centers or institutes that support the research and service mission of the institution go before the Academic Affairs Committee with requests for closure. The impact on the institutional teaching commitment, financial resources and external stakeholders are key considerations.

The Center for Plant Responses to Environmental Stresses (CPRES) was formed in 1999 under the umbrella of the Plant Sciences Institute (PSI) for the purpose of obtaining fundamental information on the ways that plants respond to environmental stresses and how they can be modified to tolerate those stresses.

Rationale for request to close: The PSI changed its model for funding centers in 2015. As a result, CPRES lost funding and the unit is no longer receiving funds for programming from PSI. The rationale for closing the center was/is that there is insufficient funding to justify the Center to function as a separate entity.

Impact of closure: The work of the research faculty continues, without formal center status, in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). PSI funds supporting CPRES were redirected into other areas of PSI. The core equipment in CPRES will continue to be supported albeit at a lower level by CALs and will serve faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology and a few other departments in CALs and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. CPRES provided support for a core research equipment facility in Bessey Hall that served research labs; the facility's base operating budget and half-time FTE staff person is now supported by CALs. This facility moved to the new Advanced Teaching and Research Building in June 2018 with limited, continued support from CALs.

Proposed date of closure: Upon Board of Regents approval.