

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** New Center to be Called the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS), ISU  
**Date:** May 6, 2002

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**Recommended Action:**

Approve Iowa State University's request for approval of a new center to be called the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS).

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**Executive Summary:**

**Board Policy** The Board of Regents policy (*Policy Manual §6.06*) requires that the Board shall review proposals for creating new centers or institutes.

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**Mission** This Institute will be an umbrella institute over three pre-existing units that are focused on survey research activities: the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research, the Research Institute for Studies in Education, and the Statistical Laboratory in the Department of Statistics. The mission of IRISS will be to conduct empirical research, methodological research, training and program evaluation in the general public interest and in the interest of Iowa State University and to do so within substantive areas that reflect existing core competencies of Iowa's public universities. This mission will be carried out largely through the design, execution, analysis and delivery of large-scale sample surveys.

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**Improved Effectiveness** The Institute will provide a formal structure for integrating the existing units on campus with related expertise into a cohesive unit that can compete optimally for grants and contracts in this area. The new institute will utilize a portion of the funding from three existing institutes. Funding for the Institute will come from three existing centers. This portion of the funding will exceed \$25,000 so the Board's policy requires Board of Regents approval of this Center. However, the institute is expected to increase grant revenues in this area of research significantly.

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Cost

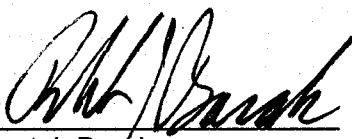
The new institute will utilize a portion of the funding from three existing institutes. As such there are no new costs for this institute and because of the consolidation aspects of the proposal, the new organization is expected to result in greater efficiency and effectiveness. The institute is expected to increase grant revenues in this area of research significantly.

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Regent Review  
Questions

A copy of the University's responses to the Regent Review Questions on new centers and institutes is attached (pages 3-6).

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Robert J. Barak

Approved:

  
Gregory S. Nichols

## **Proposal to Establish a New Institute March 22, 2002**

1. What is the title of the proposed center or institute?

Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS)

2. What is the administrative relationship of the proposed unit to other entities on campus, such as departments or colleges?

The institute will report to the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies. At its launch, the institute will include three pre-existing institutes: Institute for Social and Behavioral Research (ISBR), Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE), and the Statistical Laboratory. Additional units may be absorbed or evolved by the institute as it matures. It will establish and maintain an Institute Advisory Committee, including the Deans of the Colleges of Agriculture, Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences and other academic or business leaders who, through their participation, may be expected to advance the science or business of the institute.

3. To whom will the administrative director of the proposed unit report?

The Director of IRISS will report to the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies.

4. Succinctly describe the basic purposes and objectives of the unit.

The mission of the institute is to conduct empirical research (within substantive areas that reflect existing core competencies of Iowa's public universities), methodological research, training, and state and federal program evaluation in the general public interest and in the interest of Iowa State University (ISU). The institute's mission will be carried out largely through the design, execution, analysis, and delivery of large-scale sample surveys and observational studies. Faculty, staff, and students affiliated with the institute may also conduct analysis of other databases either previously developed at ISU or developed outside of ISU.

5. How will the activities of the unit relate to the general mission and teaching programs of the university?

University faculty will provide the main engine of research development within the new institute. Working as institute research associates, faculty will identify, conceptualize, propose, and win contracts and grants for research projects. They will conduct the awarded projects along with other staff employed by the institute. Faculty research interests and programs will therefore be fully aligned with the work of the institute. Graduate students, and possibly some undergraduates, will also participate in the institute as interviewers, statisticians, substantive analysts, computer programmers, and the like. The institute envisions formal training and on-the-job experience for faculty, staff, and students in survey methodology and related fields. It will also offer outreach programs to professionals in Iowa, the U.S., and abroad.

6. Do similar units exist at other public or private colleges or universities in Iowa? If so, how does the proposed unit relate to them?

There are no similar units in Iowa.

7. What are the proposed sources and annual amounts of funding for the unit? Please itemize. (Include faculty, staff, and clerical salaries; supplies; equipment; travel; other costs)

Current funding is set forth in the following table. The institute plans to expand in the future through external contracts and grants.

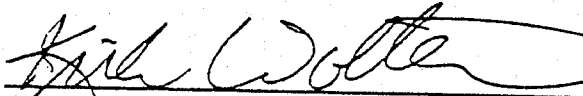
Budgetary Item	Source of Funds	Annual Amount*
<i>ISBR</i>		
-Salaries and supplies	State funding (Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station)	\$550,000
-Extramural project costs (labor hours, other direct costs (ODCs), fringe, general and administrative costs (G&A))	Revenue from current contracts and grants with Federal, state, and other external clients	\$6,500,000
-Intramural project costs (labor hours, ODCs, fringe, G&A)	Revenue from current contracts and grants via interunit transfers within ISU	\$0
<i>RISE</i>		
-Salaries and supplies	State funding	\$210,000
-Extramural project costs (labor hours, ODCs, fringe, G&A)	Revenue from current contracts and grants with Federal, state, and other external clients	\$400,000
-Intramural project costs (labor hours, ODCs, fringe, G&A)	Revenue from current contracts and grants via interunit transfers within ISU	\$40,000
<i>Stat Laboratory, Survey Section</i>		
-Salaries and supplies	State funding	\$190,000
-Extramural project costs (labor hours, ODCs, fringe, G&A)	Revenue from current contracts and grants with Federal, state, and other external clients	\$2,250,000
-Intramural project costs (labor hours, ODCs, fringe, G&A)	Revenue from current contracts and grants via interunit transfers within ISU	\$210,000
Director's startup funds	State funds and ISU Research Foundation (split to be determined)	One time amount equal to \$600,000 to be spread FY02-05

\*Approximate amounts.

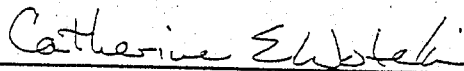
8. Which of the costs in item 7 represent new financial obligations to the general fund of the university?

None.

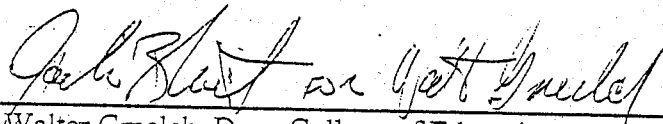
9. Endorsements




Kirk Wolter, Director of IRISS



Catherine Woteki, Dean College of Agriculture



Walter Gmelch, Dean College of Education



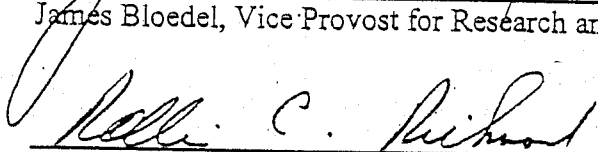
Carol Meeks, Dean College of Family and Consumer Sciences



Peter Rabideau, Dean College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



James Bloedel, Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies



Rollin Richmond, Provost