

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE SCIENCE

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Department of Exercise Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the Department of Integrative Physiology and the name of the B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Exercise Science to the B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Integrative Physiology.

Executive Summary: The proposed name will more accurately reflect the curriculum offered to undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Exercise Science. 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:

- ◇ Exercise science includes study in anatomy, biomechanics, exercise physiology, motor control, and athletic training.
- ◇ The department curriculum and research focus has evolved to the point that exercise science is no longer an appropriate description of the program. It has presented problems for recent undergraduate students who have interviewed at medical schools outside of Iowa. The name of the department was the single concern expressed by recent graduates interviewed during the departmental review.
- ◇ In other Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) institutions, departments designated as exercise science and/or kinesiology are typically housed in colleges of education and continue to have strong teacher education programs along with programs in sports marketing, athletic administration, and other pedagogy-related interests. None of these emphases exist in the Department of Exercise Science at SUI.
- ◇ All of the tenure-track faculty members are involved in teaching and research in the broad discipline of physiology. The name Exercise Science is misleading and is not representative of the current mission of the department.
- ◇ The student body also differs from those of other programs with the same name. At other institutions, students typically have a strong orientation toward physical education and sport-related fields. At SUI, approximately 90% of the undergraduate majors enter graduate programs in the health sciences; of those, 45-50% enter a medical program and 30-35% enter a physical therapy program.

- ◇ At this time, the name Exercise Science for the M.S. degrees will not be changed because there are two different M.S. degree tracks, one in Exercise Science and one in Athletic Training. Eventually, the Department will develop a proposal to create a new M.S. degree in Integrative Physiology.
- ◇ There are no programmatic changes requested by the University.

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