

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Center for Advanced Studies in Measurement and Assessment, SUI
Date: November 4, 2002

Recommended Action:

Approve the University of Iowa Center for Advanced Studies in Measurement and Assessment.

Executive Summary:

To Advance the Effective Use of Testing

The University of Iowa seeks approval for a new center, the Center for Advanced Studies in Measurement and Assessment (CASMA), which will be directed by Robert Brennan, the E.F. Lindquist Chair in Measurement and Testing, and report to the Dean of the College of Education. Creation of the Center was recommended by a group of faculty and administrators who convened to consider ways in which the University could capitalize on its national reputation in the testing arena. The Center provides a model to use the University of Iowa educational testing expertise to advance the effective use of testing nationally, and to grow the educational testing activities of the University of Iowa. This recommendation is particularly timely, given the national conversation around issues of testing, assessment, and evaluation.

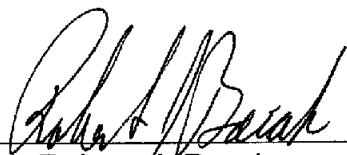
Primary Purpose Relates to Research in Measurement and Assessment

The primary purpose of CASMA is to pursue research-based initiatives that lead to advancements in the methodology and practice of educational measurement and assessment at all educational levels. CASMA will provide research assistantship opportunities for advanced graduate students in measurement and related fields. The long-term vision is that CASMA will be recognized nationally and internationally as one of the premier interdisciplinary centers that performs, promotes, fosters, and disseminates high quality research in measurement and assessment. Faculty are already actively engaged in activities and have plans for a national conference on validity of testing from multiple perspectives in fall 2003. CASMA differs from the Iowa Testing Programs and the Center for Evaluation and Assessment in the College of Education in that CASMA's primary purpose relates to research in measurement and assessment as opposed to the development of testing programs or other evaluation activities in educational environments. The three units are complementary.

Portion of Director's
Salary Paid from
General Fund

There are no new financial obligations to the general fund of the University. While most costs associated with CASMA are borne by private funds or the Iowa Measurement Research Foundation, a portion of the director's salary exceeding \$25,000 is paid from the General Fund. The Center was approved by the Dean of the College of Education, and the Provost.

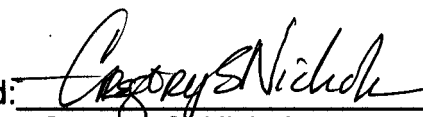
Attached are the University's responses to the Regent Questions for New Centers and Institutes.



Robert J. Barak

h/aa/docket/2003/nov/sui3

Approved:



Gregory S. Nichols

Center for Advanced Studies in Measurement and Assessment

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

Center for Advanced Studies in Measurement and Assessment (CASMA)

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

CASMA is a unit within the College of Education of The University of Iowa

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

The Director of CASMA will report to the Dean of the College of Education.

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

The primary purpose of CASMA is to pursue research-based initiatives that lead to advancements in the methodology and practice of educational measurement and assessment. In addition, inter-disciplinary measurement and assessment activities, as well as international activities, may be pursued when they relate to the primary mission.

- (a) How will the activities of the unit relate to the general mission and teaching programs of the University?

The Director of CASMA, who is the E. F. Lindquist Chair in Measurement and Testing, teaches advanced courses in the measurement and statistics program in the College of Education. CASMA will provide research assistantship opportunities for advanced graduate students in measurement and related fields. The long-term vision for CASMA is that it be recognized nationally and internationally as one of the premier centers that performs, promotes, fosters, and disseminates high quality research in measurement and assessment.

- (b) How do they relate to the strategic plan of the department and/or university?

Improvements in measurement and assessment support both the educational and research missions of the University, not only within the College of Education but potentially in other units as well. Furthermore, the national and potential international focus of these activities should expand the University's reputation in the measurement and assessment arenas.

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

In addition to CASMA, Iowa Testing Programs (ITP) and the Center for Evaluation and Assessment (CEA) exist within the College of Education. CASMA differs from ITP and CEA in that CASMA's primary purpose relates to research in measurement and assessment and the dissemination of such research, whereas ITP's central activities involve the development of testing programs, and CEA's central activities involve various evaluation activities in educational environments. The three units are complementary.

6. 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)

Budgetary Item	Source of Funds	Annual Amount
Director's Salary	IMRF	\$124,537.00
Director's Fringe	IMRF	31,793.00
Director's Salary	General Fund	31,311.00
Director's Fringe	General Fund	7,948.00
Secretary III Salary	Private Funds	32,000.00
Secretary III Fringe	Private Funds	13,120.00
Research Assistants (3)	IMRF	45,990.00
Research Assts (3) Fringe	IMRF	5,059.00
Equipment (including computer networking)	Private Funds	10,000.00
Office supplies	Private Funds	2,000.00
Phone	Private Funds	1,500.00
Travel	IMRF	4,700.00
Professional Discretionary Funds	IMRF	5,125.00

7. Which of the costs in item 6 represent new financial obligations to the general fund of the university? None