

January 11, 2007

TO: Curriculum Committee, College of Human Sciences
VIA: Dean Cheryl Achterberg, College of Human Sciences
VIA: Faculty Senate
VIA: Graduate Council
VIA: Provost Elizabeth Hoffman

FR: Jerry R. Thomas, Chair

RE: Change of Degree Names

The faculty in the Department of Health and Human Performance voted to change the names of our degrees. We have previously requested a departmental name change to Kinesiology and that request has been approved and awaits final approval from the IA BOR (February 2007).

Following are the change in degree names we are requesting approval for:

Degree Name Changes

B.S. in Health and Human Performance to **B.S. in Kinesiology and Health**

M.S. in Exercise and Sport Science to **M.S. in Kinesiology**

Ph.D. in Health and Human Performance to **Ph.D. in Kinesiology**

Rationale for Name Changes

Kinesiology is defined as the study of human movement and physical activity. This is the focus of the Department of Health and Human Performance. Our mission statement says

We promote health and well-being by creating and disseminating knowledge about physical activity and active living. Through discovery, learning and engagement we improve the lives of citizens of Iowa, the United States and the world.

Several events have occurred recently that lead to this proposal. First, the National Research Council has for the first time included "Kinesiology" as a discipline in "Life

Sciences” (see NRC Taxonomy Website http://www7.nationalacademies.org/resdoc/Taxonomy_list.html) in their upcoming review of U.S. doctoral programs. In addition, based on a published survey (Thomas, Morrow, & Stevermer, 2004) 24 of the 60 departments offering doctorates in Kinesiology (or related titles) have departmental titles including “Kinesiology.” In the recently reported ranking of doctoral programs in Kinesiology, 15 of the top 20 ranked departments used Kinesiology in their departmental name (Thomas & Reeve, 2006). Our Department was one of the 5 programs in the top 20 that did not. Of the 7 Big 10 Departments that were listed in the top 20, all used Kinesiology in the department name. Three Big 12 departments were in the top 20 (University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Iowa State University) and Iowa State is the only one of the three not using Kinesiology in their department name.

Because we are requesting the change of the department name, **we also request approval to change all three of our degree names to Kinesiology (B.S. to Kinesiology and Health because of the Community/Public Health option in that degree).**

References Cited

Thomas, J.R., & Reeve, T.G. (2006). A review and evaluation of doctoral programs 2000-2004 by the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education. *Quest*, 58, 176-196.

Thomas, J.R., Morrow, Jr., J.R., & Stevermer, C. (2004). Evaluating doctoral education in physical activity: Role of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education. *Quest*, 56, 361-376.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerry R. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerry R. Thomas, Ed.D.
Chair and Professor