

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

College of Human Sciences
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DEAN'S OFFICE
COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES

April 21, 2006

TO: Provost Ben Allen

VIA: Dean Cheryl Achterberg, College of Human Sciences

FR: Jerry R. Thomas, Chair

RE: Name Change for Department

The faculty in the Department of Health and Human Performance voted to change the Departmental name from the Department of Health and Human Performance to **Department of Kinesiology**.

Rationale for Name Change

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 resulting in 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.

Based on this information, but particularly the need to allow groups such as NRC to easily locate our Department, **we are requesting approval to change our name to the Departmental of Kinesiology.**

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.