

Approved by the Board of Trustees,
January 20, 2005

Board Meeting
January 20, 2005

MERGE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND KINESIOLOGY,
URBANA

Action: Approve the Merging of the Departments of Community Health and Kinesiology, Urbana

Funding: No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends for approval a proposal from the Graduate College and the Departments of Community Health and Kinesiology to merge the Departments of Community Health and Kinesiology.

The merging of the two departments will benefit the faculty and students of both departments by building upon the intellectual synergy between the two fields and the similar research interests of both faculties. Faculty will benefit by having a greater number of colleagues with whom to collaborate on research, teaching, and professional growth. The students, particularly students pursuing Community Health degrees, will benefit by having a larger, more active faculty to teach courses and serve as mentors. The merger will also greatly bolster the Community Health Department which suffered a precipitous decline in faculty and has recently been unsuccessful in hiring faculty to rebuild its numbers. Future hiring potential will be enhanced through the strength of the merged unit.

All existing Kinesiology degrees will continue unchanged and all existing Community Health degrees will be moved to the new merged unit. Students currently pursuing a Community Health degree or wishing to do so, will be unaffected by the merger. They will simply pursue the same degree under the auspices of the newly merged department with the support of a larger more robust faculty.

This merger proposal was the unanimous recommendation of an Ad Hoc Taskforce on the Departmental Merger of Community Health, was approved by an overwhelming majority of the faculty in the Departments of Kinesiology and Community Health, and the College of Applied Life Studies Administrative Council, as well as the unanimous support of the College of Applied Life Studies Executive Committee.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs in this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs, pending further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.