Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 18, 2023

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Board Meeting

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# RENAME THE DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Rename the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, College of Applied Health Sciences

**Funding:** No anticipated impact on faculty resources, size, teaching loads, course enrollments, technical resources, or facilities

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate, recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to rename the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, changing the name to the Department of Health and Kinesiology.

Historically, the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health represents a long tradition at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, with earliest roots in offering physical and health education going back to 1874. Originally two separate departments, one for men and one for women, in 1972 there was a merger to become a single Department of Physical Education, which was renamed the Department of Kinesiology in 1987. Community Health was originally established in 1957 as the Department of Health and Safety Education, and it was renamed the Department of Community Health in 1992 when it merged with the Division of Rehabilitation Education. In 2005, the Department of Kinesiology and the Department of Community Health merged to become the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health.

Since this merger, the configuration of the department has changed considerably. Three graduate professional degrees have been added in health administration, public health, and health technology. Minors in kinesiology, health administration, public health, disability studies, health technology, and interdisciplinary aging, and the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Health Science were also added.

Given these increasingly diverse areas of study added to the department, “community” is no longer the focal point through which health is examined. Instead, the broader term of “health” is more representative of current efforts taking place. Similarly, “kinesiology” has been the foundation for the department since its inception. Faculty affiliate strongly with the American Kinesiology Association and National Academy of Kinesiology, and are committed to retaining the legacy of kinesiology by continuing to include it in the department name.

The proposed Department of Health and Kinesiology reflects the broader, more representative nature of research being conducted by faculty, is more in-line with peer institutions, and will decrease confusion for prospective students. It also provides valuable information about department identity for candidates seeking open positions.

The faculty of the department are overwhelmingly supportive of this change, and there is no resource impact anticipated outside of new signage and wordmarks.

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

The President of the University of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.