

Board Meeting  
May 22, 2008

REDESIGNATE AND CONSOLIDATE THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN  
HUMAN NUTRITION AND THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MOVEMENT  
SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve the Redesignation and Consolidation of the Doctor of Philosophy in Human Nutrition and the Doctor of Philosophy in Movement Sciences as the Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Rehabilitation, College of Applied Health Sciences, Chicago

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Applied Health Sciences recommends the redesignation and consolidation of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Human Nutrition and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Movement Sciences as the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Rehabilitation.

The Department of Human Nutrition merged with the Department of Movement Sciences on August 16, 2007, resulting in a new Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition with a combined enrollment of 17 doctoral students. Creating a single Ph.D. program that is driven towards a unified vision and mission will create opportunities that would not otherwise emerge.

Over the next 25 years, twenty percent of the U.S. population will be 65 years or older. The prospect of increased age-related disease and disability carries an associated and potentially enormous increase in the health-care costs and the gap in healthcare disparities. Seventy percent of age-related physical decline is related to modifiable habits such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and injuries related to falls. The Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition and the College of Applied Health Sciences are uniquely positioned to address interdisciplinary research related to the causes of disease and disability, and rehabilitation interventions designed to address these problems.

The addition of the rehabilitation component will support and facilitate one of the enduring visions for the College, which is to increase interdisciplinary research collaboration and excellence in translational approaches among faculty from different departments. Currently, several faculty in the new Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition have a major rehabilitation component in their research programs. The revision would create training opportunities in rehabilitation for faculty and students within the college as a whole, allowing for faculty and students from the College's nationally ranked departments of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to fully interact with colleagues in Kinesiology and Nutrition.

Strengths of the college faculty, in the area of normal and pathological aging, cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome, health and occupation, diabetes, and obesity for example, can be harnessed to address the complexities related to prevention and reduction of various impairments and improvements in the quality of life, and to train the

next generation of scientific, academic, and professional leaders. Currently, all these areas overlap in the types of research questions that are of interest to the National Institutes of Health, and this restructuring will allow students to study rehabilitation from a wide variety of theoretical and applied perspectives.

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 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 recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.