

March 6, 2006

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: Proposal to rename the College of Applied Life Studies.

SPONSOR:

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The College of Applied Life Studies is proposing its name be changed from the College of Applied Life Studies to the College of Applied Health Sciences. The proposed name better communicates the college's research, instructional, and outreach programs.

JUSTIFICATION:

The proposed name change for the college better communicates the evolution of the modern college from its historic roots in health. Predecessors to current departments in the college were the Departments of Physical Training for Men and Physical Training for Women established in 1895, the Department of Physical Welfare and Athletics established in 1924, the Department of Health Service established in 1932, the Department of Recreation in 1957, the Department of Health and Safety Information in 1957, and the Department of Speech and Hearing Science in 1991. The service division of the college, the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (formerly the Division of Rehabilitation-Education Services) was established in 1948. The college has undergone departmental reorganizations that led to its current structure of three departments, the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, the Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism, and the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. The College has also undergone name changes itself from its early name, the College of Physical Education, to its current name, the College of Applied Life Studies, adopted in 1975 to better reflect the nature and breadth of scholarship within the college.

Over the past 30 years, the academic units within the college have continued to evolve toward an even greater primary emphasis on health, wellness, and enhancing quality of life. Over the past five years, the college has firmly established cross-college emphases in aging and disability with an additional emerging theme of healthy communities. Following two very successful faculty strategic planning retreats, the college mission was revised and

updated in 2005 to better reflect the research, education, and public outreach programs of the modern college. The college mission reads: "to advance research, instruction and public engagement that promotes the development of healthy, livable communities, facilitates optimal living with disability and promotes health and wellness across the lifespan and throughout a diverse society".

All of the academic departments in the college are nationally ranked among the top ten programs in the nation and college faculty are leading national efforts addressing healthy aging across the lifespan and the full participation of persons with disabilities. Programs of study offered within the college are:

Kinesiology (KIN) - biobehavioral kinesiology; cultural, pedagogical and interpretive kinesiology; and exercise physiology and athletic training.

Community Health (CHLH) - public health education; health planning and administration; and rehabilitation and disability studies.

Speech and Hearing Science (SHS) - human communication science; speech-language pathology; and audiology.

Recreation, Sport and Tourism (RST)- park and recreation management; tourism management; and sport management.

Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) – DRES does not offer academic programs per se, but provides academic, housing, health and other support services for all students with disabilities campus-wide.

Total external research funding on health related topics in the college currently exceeds \$20 million, including substantial research funding from the National Institutes of Health. Research being conducted on speech, spoken and signed language, hearing, and swallowing in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science includes assessment and rehabilitation of cognitive communication impairments, hearing impairments, stuttering, traumatic brain injury, and cleft palate and imaging and drug delivery in cancer treatment. Examples of research project titles include a telemedicine project "Real-time Internet Evaluation of Oropharyngeal Swallowing", a speech, language and genetic analysis stuttering project "Subtypes and Associated Risk Factors in Stuttering", a dysphagia project "Coordination and Respiration and Deglutition", a cancer project "Ultrasonic Tissue Characterization of Oral Pharyngeal Cancer" and a project using an animal model to study hearing impairment "Central Responses to Reversible Unilateral Deafening".

Research being conducted in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism includes evaluating the health benefits of recreational, sport, and tourism activities, and the positive impacts of parks and other public spaces in enhancing the environment and promoting healthy communities. Examples of research project titles being funded by federal, state and private agencies include the "Healthy Rural Communities Project", "Perceived and Realized Health Benefits of Urban Proximate and Distant Recreation Lands", and "Use of Local Government Parks and Recreation and Their Relation to Health".

Research being conducted in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health includes the positive benefits of physical activity on physical, psychological, and social well-being across the lifespan and in the community health program includes cancer epidemiology, health policy, disease prevention and health promotion, public health

education, and rehabilitation and disability studies. Examples of research project titles include “Physical Activity, Aging and Immune Function”, “Exercise, Aging and Psychological Function”, “Activity, Gait and Efficacy of Older Women”, “Mammographic Densities in the Pathway to Breast Cancer”, and “Quality of Life of African American Cancer Survivors”.

The Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services has an extensive research portfolio in the areas of accessibility, educational opportunities, health promotion, health maintenance and the prevention of secondary co-morbidities for individuals with disabilities. Examples of funded research project titles include the “Illinois Center on Health Promotion Nutrition, Physical Activity and Disability”, “Developing Disability Access Metrics in Postsecondary Education”, and “Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Recreational Technologies”.

In addition to the unit activities, the College houses two major national research initiatives, the National Blueprint on Physical Activity in Aging, and the Disability Research Institute (DRI). The National Blueprint supports a consortium of over 50 federal and private agencies developing health promotion guidelines for increasing physical activity of older individuals and is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The DRI is funded by the Social Security Administration and the central purpose of the DRI is to conduct research and evaluations, disseminate information on disability topics, and inform policymakers and the public in understanding policies as they relate to people with disabilities and programs under the Social Security Act. The DRI has a critical role in assisting the agency in anticipating economic, medical, policy, demographic, and other changes that impact SSA’s disability benefits program.

College faculty are involved in over 20 public engagement programs in the Chicago area with health related themes, and two faculty members in RST are jointly funded by UI Extension. The Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism’s Office of Recreation and Park Services (ORPS) is a resource to the state on information, research, and education relating to community parks and recreation and has strong program ties to related state agencies and boards.

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science’s Speech, Language and Hearing Clinics provide over 5000 hours of clinical services to residents of the community and surrounding areas and offers summer speech-language camps for children. Several ALS public engagement activities have been cited as models including the Chicago Language and Literacy Wellness Program, the Rural Recreation Program, the Senior Fitness Program, the Motorcycle Rider Program, and the Active Green Environment project. Public engagement activities have been increasingly integrated into the educational and research missions of the college.

As a result of the increasing emphasis on health related topics there has been a growing concern over the last several years among the faculty, students, and alumni that the current college name does not effectively communicate the primary focus of the college’s research, instructional, and outreach programs. To prospective students, corporate recruiters and other external parties our current name is ambiguous and confusing. No college at other institutions housing departments such as those in Applied Life Studies share that name. Further, the acronym ALS is unfortunately also the acronym of a serious fatal disease,

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease). Faculty, staff, students, and alumni have expressed concern about negative associations that might relate to this unfortunate correspondence.

It would enhance the achievement of the college's mission to have a formal identity that more appropriately communicates its primary focus. Discussions regarding a more appropriate new name have resulted in this proposal. The proposed name, the College of Applied Health Sciences, communicates the "applications", "health", and "sciences" aspects of the college's activities and is a more accurate and appropriate descriptor.

The proposed name was unanimously approved by the college Alumni Board, Administrative Council, and Executive Committee. The college faculty vote was 90% in favor of changing the proposed name, 4% against the name change and 6% not voting. This demonstrates overwhelming support for this proposal by the various stakeholders.

BUDGETARY and STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

No staff implications.

Estimated cost, not exceeding \$5,000, to change certain signage and letterhead upon approval. Other publications, letterheads, and cards will be changed as need for replacement arises.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

Not applicable

CLEARANCES:

The College Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposal (9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining).

The College Administrative Council unanimously approved the proposal (9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining)

The overwhelming majority of the College Faculty approved the proposal (43 in favor, 2 against and 3 abstained).

All members present of the College Student Council approved the proposal (13 in favor, 2 not present).

Letters of support [★] was forwarded by the members of the ALS Alumni Advisory Board, Deans of the colleges at UIUC and members of the ALS student Council.

★ Available for review in
the Senate Office.

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

No statement is needed. The name of College of Applied Life Studies will be changed to College of Applied Health Sciences

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon approval