

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

November 20, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Division of Kinesiology

Action Requested: Renaming Division of Kinesiology as School of Kinesiology

Effective Date: December 1, 2008

The Division of Kinesiology began as the Department of Physical Education, housed within the School of Education, in the late 1800s. In 1984, when the School of Education underwent a dramatic reorganization, the Department of Physical Education was moved out of Education. It was restructured as a free-standing unit, a division, with its chair becoming the director (changed to dean in 2000) and reporting to the provost. In 1990, following the national trend among prominent universities, the division's name was changed to Kinesiology. The new, more comprehensive name better represents the breadth and depth of the field today.

The mission of Kinesiology at Michigan is to address issues related to the physical health and movement abilities of people in our society as well as the sport and physical activity industry that serves our fitness, recreation, and leisure pursuits. The goal is to be world leaders in the creation, communication, application, and preservation of knowledge of human movement and physical activity through interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service. The four departments in Kinesiology (Athletic Training, Movement Science, Physical Education, and Sport Management), which are linked by an emphasis on human movement, focus on topics that range from the effects of exercise on cellular processes to the management of international sport organizations. Kinesiology provides unique and invaluable expertise that enriches research, learning, and service at the University of Michigan.

The national prominence of the Division of Kinesiology has grown considerably during the past ten years under the leadership of Dean Beverly Ulrich. The steadily rising quality of programs, faculty, and staff within the division has contributed to increasing competition for enrollment in its programs. Undergraduate enrollment is currently more than 800, fourth highest among the twelve schools and colleges with undergraduate programs at the University of Michigan. Over the past decade, the faculty has completely revamped the curricula in three of the four undergraduate majors. Students are now better prepared to take on a wide range of positions in management and marketing in the sport industry, as well as continue their education in areas such as business and law. The graduate program continues to grow, with approximately 28 full-time Master's students (M.A. or M.S.) and 35 full-time Ph.D. students expected to be enrolled in 2008-09. Over 90% of Ph.D. graduates from the past six years are currently in university faculty or other professional or post-doctoral trainee positions. The Ph.D. program in Kinesiology at Michigan is now widely recognized as among the best in the United States.

In 2008-09, the division has 23 tenure-line faculty and six full-time instructional faculty. One of the primary goals for the next decade is to maintain the current undergraduate enrollment, while increasing the number of full-time doctoral students and the number of tenure-line faculty, complementing current tenure-line faculty with a pool of talented new faculty members in areas that enhance the unit. Faculty publications have been increasing over the past ten years, in quantity, but more importantly, in quality. The distinguished scholarship of the faculty is recognized by their roles in national leadership such as executive positions in national professional organizations in kinesiology, as Fulbright Scholars, and as

fellows in prestigious national organizations. Additionally, ten members of the faculty have important editorial responsibilities for prominent research journals.

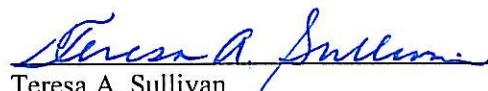
The growth of research funding for Kinesiology at Michigan has been impressive. In 2006-07, the division ranked first among CIC kinesiology programs for external funding, and in 2007, it ranked third nationally among kinesiology programs for NIH funding. Between 1999 and 2007, total external funding increased by nearly three-fold as the result of a more than two-fold increase in non-federal funding and a greater than seven-fold increase in federal funding. External funding for FY08 is approximately \$7.6 million, with an anticipated increase to approximately \$7.8 million for FY09. Kinesiology faculty members have been funded through federal awards from the NIH, NSF, CDC, NASA and the U.S. Department of Education. Non-federal funds have come from a variety of sources. Faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and research scientists work together in teams to address a range of issues. Faculty members have clustered in interdisciplinary centers of excellence focused on common themes to encourage collaborations, increased visibility, and increased efficiency. These centers are the Center for Exercise Research, the Center for Clinical Biomechanics, the Center for Motor Behavior and Pediatric Disabilities, the Michigan Center for Sport Management, and the Health Management Research Center.

The Division of Kinesiology functions exactly like one of our schools or colleges in every way, except for the nomenclature. The unit admits graduate and undergraduate students, hires and promotes faculty, and administers its own grants and budget. It is governed by a dean and an executive committee. In becoming the School of Kinesiology this unit will further enhance the University of Michigan's national leadership in kinesiology, a field that is growing in the United States and Canada. Sixty-one universities in the U.S. offer a Ph.D. in kinesiology or a closely related field, and at five of these institutions, the academic unit is a school (e.g., the School of Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota and the School of Physical Activity and Educational Services at Ohio State University). Renaming the Division of Kinesiology will align Michigan's academic unit with the reality of its actual structure and performance, both internally and externally.

In view of the excellence of Kinesiology's programs, its faculty, and its students, I am very pleased to recommend that the Division of Kinesiology be renamed as the School of Kinesiology, effective December 1, 2008.

Approval of this recommendation will require a revision of several Regents' Bylaws that refer to the Division of Kinesiology. These proposed revisions will be forthcoming in accordance with the *Procedures for the Revision of Regents' Bylaws*.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Sullivan
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs

November 2008