

IUPUI Request for Change of Academic Program Name

School/Department

submitting request

School of Physical Education and Tourism Management

Date

02/15/2011

Degree

X

please check name to be changed

Major

Minor

Certificate

Current Name

Master in Science Degree in Physical Education

New Name

Master in Science Degree in Kinesiology

Effective Date

Fall 2011

Rationale (include any supporting documentation as appropriate)

A Proposal to Change the Name the degrees granted from BS in Physical Education to BS in Kinesiology.

Proposed New Name: Kinesiology

At the Department of Physical Education December 13, 2010 meeting, the faculty unanimously approved a proposal to change the name of the Department to the Department of Kinesiology, as well as, to request a change to the name bachelor and master in Science degree in Physical Education to a **Masters in Science Degree in Kinesiology**.

Kinesiology refers to the study of movement (Definition from National Academy of Kinesiology, <http://www.nationalacademyofkinesiology.org/> . In American higher education, the term is used to describe a multifaceted field of study in which movement or physical activity is the intellectual focus. Physical activity includes exercise for improvement of health and physical fitness, activities of daily living, work, sport, dance, and play, and involves special population groups such as children and the elderly; persons with disabilities; injury or disease; and athletes. Kinesiology is a common name for more than 50% of college and university academic departments that include many specialized areas of study in which the causes and consequences of physical activity are examined from different perspectives. The specialized areas of study apply knowledge, methods of inquiry, and principles from traditional areas of study in the arts, humanities and sciences. These areas include exercise and sport biomechanics, history, philosophy, physiology, biochemistry and molecular/cellular physiology, psychology, and sociology; motor behavior; measurement; physical fitness; and sports medicine. An interdisciplinary approach involving several of these areas is often used in addressing problems of importance to society. The study of kinesiology can lead to a variety of careers involving teaching, research, coaching and delivery of services related to physical activity and fitness, health promotion, rehabilitation and sports medicine. Positions are found in a variety of settings including schools, colleges and universities, public and private agencies, clinical environments, government, business and the military.

Reasons for the Change

1. The proposed name change "Kinesiology" is consistent with the name used in the USA. The name Kinesiology is the most frequently used in the by Departments and universities in the USA, with more than 100 departments using the name¹. IUB changed their department and degree name in 1989

¹ Custonja et al. (2009). Kinesiology in the names of higher education institutions in Europe and the United States of America. *Kinesiology* 41(2), 136-146

(<http://www.indiana.edu/~kines/undergraduate/index.shtml>) as well as most of the Big Ten universities and several of our peer universities (Temple, University of Illinois in Chicago and Wayne State). See example (<http://www.michigandaily.com/content/2008-11-18/kinesiology-program-set-name-change>)

2. The name of the degree (MS in Physical Education) no longer represents who we are in terms of curriculum, student aspirations, faculty, and faculty research. Nationwide, physical education is used to identify students interested in the physical education teacher education program. Our master's program offers two tracks: the clinical exercise science track which is designed to provide students with an in-depth science-based understanding of the human body, its adaptations to physical activity, and how exercise/physical activity interventions can be prescribed to decrease risk for diseases related to sedentary living; the teaching and curriculum track provides in-service teachers professional development and addresses the current changes in pedagogy. More than 80% our students are in the exercise science track. Physical Education teaching curriculum students comprise less than 20% of the students in the department in the past five years.

Of the twelve tenured or tenure track faculty members in the department, *six* are in the exercise science program, three in the Physical Education Teacher Education program and three in Sport Management. Over the years the focus of our research has widened, as a faculty we study all aspects of human movement and sports, from the scientific and clinical aspects of physical activity, the pedagogy of teaching physical education and health to research in sport management.

3. Because physical education is not considered a science, faculty who apply for health science oriented research grants (exercise science faculty) have been at an initial disadvantage when using the name Physical Education to describe their home department. It will be a great benefit to our faculty to now be able to apply for research support from a Department of Kinesiology. No doubt we will be even more successful in securing external research funding with the appropriate departmental name. More important, in 2006, Kinesiology and four of its sub-disciplines (Biomechanics, Exercise Physiology, Motor Control, and Psychology of Movement) were recognized by the **National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences as a field of study in graduate education** (http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/Resdoc/PGA_044522) which is of vital importance when applying for federal grants and external funding (NIH & NSF).
4. Many students are not pursuing traditional careers like coaching or teacher education and the larger majority of our students continue into graduate or professional school careers. This change will also be in line with the requested name change in our bachelor's degree from Physical Education to Kinesiology.

Submitted by

Department Chair

Rafael Bahamonde, Ph.D.



Date

3/21/2011

Dean

Jay Gladden, Ph.D.



Date

3/21/2011



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HEALTH,
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION
Department of Kinesiology
Bloomington

February 11, 2011

Dr. Rafael Bahamonde, Chair
Department of Physical Education
School of Physical Education and Tourism Management
901 West New York St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Dr. Bahamonde:

I am pleased, on behalf of the Department of Kinesiology at Indiana University-Bloomington to provide this letter in support of your proposal to change the name of the Department of Physical Education at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI) to the Department of Kinesiology. Further I am pleased to also support a change in your degree terminology from the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Physical Education to the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Kinesiology.

As you may know, the Department of Kinesiology at IUB underwent a similar name change in 1989 – our department name changed from the Department of Physical Education to the Department of Kinesiology. The proposed name change to Kinesiology is consistent with the common terminology used in the field in the United States and throughout the world. Kinesiology is the most frequently used name by Departments in the United States, with more than 100 departments so named. The term kinesiology is universally defined as the *study of human movement*, and this term is much more representative of the ever-expanding areas that such a department serves. For example, areas like exercise science, sport management, dance and athletic training, once not immediately identified with physical education are clearly within the realm of kinesiology. The name change has served our department well over the past 21 years, and it has been a general umbrella term which has not been restrictive in expanding into other health-related areas of human movement (e.g., rehabilitative sciences).

Once again, I am pleased to support the proposed name change of the department of Physical Education at IUPUI to the Department of Exercise Science, as well as all accompanying degrees. If there is any additional information that you require, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David M. Koceja, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Kinesiology