**Discontinuation of the Physical Education Option in Kinesiology**

The Department of Kinesiology is considering the suspension of its Option in Physical Education due to low demand and cost effectiveness. If demand for this Option should return at some point in the future, the department will consider its reinstatement at that time.

***A) Importance to the institution***

* *To what extent the program promotes the mission of the University.*
* *To what extent the program is central to the curriculum of a department, a college or the University.*
* *To what extent the program contributes to a balanced curriculum.*

The PE Option promotes the mission of the University in a variety of ways, including

* Promotion of active learning through a learn by doing approach to coursework
* A curriculum that emphasizes inclusion, civility, and service of students with varying cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and those with special needs
* Connection with K-12 schools in the community

This sub-discipline is important but not central to the curriculum of the Kinesiology department. The importance is reflected in a parallel proposal to include a PE course in the core of the department so that all students are exposed to this field. Aside from this addition, removal of the PE option will have no effect on the core of the Kinesiology curriculum, or the remaining options.

As a subdiscipline of Kinesiology, it is important that PE be represented in the program curriculum to provide balance. In addition to suspension of the PE option, an additional course will be inserted into the Kinesiology core in an effort to maintain this balance.

***B) Quality of the program***

*To what extent the quality of the program justifies continuance in its present form. The variables for evaluating program quality include but are not limited to:*

* *demonstrated ability of the faculty to offer and maintain a current and rigorous curriculum;*
* *access to resources adequate to maintain the sufficient breadth, depth and coherence of the program;*
* *demonstrated ability to attract and retain enough well-qualified faculty;*
* *the quality of the program’s faculty as demonstrated by participation in appropriate scholarly, creative and/or professional activity; and*
* *to what extent the program’s excellence and standing in its discipline enhances the reputation of the University*

There is little question that this program is of high quality. Dr. Paul T. Stuhr is the lead tenure track faculty member for the physical education option in Kinesiology. Dr. Stuhr has been studying/working within physical education since 1995. His research focuses on how best to meet national physical education standards using adventure-based learning curriculum and a classroom ecology that includes lived-positive emotionality among students and teachers. Dr. Stuhr has published and presented his research in numerous formats and venues and through his research and teaching excellence has brought recognition to the Kinesiology program at CSUSM. The PE option within Kinesiology at CSUSM is one of only two such programs in San Diego County, and the only program that provides pre-service physical education teachers with 90 hours of faculty supervised teaching experience within local K-12 schools.

Dr. Stuhr is also the only tenure track faculty member in Kinesiology with the appropriate expertise to teach in the PE option. Courses not taught by Dr. Stuhr are taught by well-qualified adjunct instructors, and this approach to offering high-quality instruction in the PE option has been effective to date. Since hiring Dr. Stuhr, the department has not searched for additional tenure track faculty in this area so it is difficult to determine the ability for the program to attract suitable faculty members in this area. However, because enrollment in PE courses has been relatively low in recent semesters, the department is unlikely to hire additional tenure track faculty in this area in the near future.

***C) Efficiency (cost effectiveness) of the program***

*To what extent the program is cost-effective relative to disciplinary norms and compared to similar programs at comparable institutions. The measurements presented for the specific program shall include:*

* *student-faculty ratio;*
* *total cost per FTEF;*
* *the total cost per FTES;*
* *potential for external funding and support; and*
* *other discipline specific variables*

The average student-faculty ratio for courses in the PE Option in Spring 2014 is 14.7. The average cost per FTES is approximately $3000 (FTES for each course is listed below). While external funding is available, there are traditionally fewer funding mechanisms for work in this sub-discipline when compared to others in Kinesiology.

***D) Demand for the program***

*To what extent the present and projected demand for the program is sufficient. Demand for the program may be measured by one or more of the following:*

* *the number of completed applications for admission;*
* *the FTES generated in lower division, upper division, and/or graduate level courses;*
* *the number of students who completed the program;*
* *the anticipated need for graduates of the program*

There are currently 375 Kinesiology majors and 475 pre-Kinesiology majors on campus. Of the 375 students that have been admitted to the program, there are currently 10 that have registered in the PE Option. At this time the department is unable to determine how many pre-KINE majors are interested in pursuing the PE option, as they only make this designation upon applying to be admitted into the Kinesiology major (i.e. no longer pre-KINE major).

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Course  | # students enrolled | FTES |
| KINE 304 | 26 | 5.2 |
| KINE 308 | 14 | 3.3 |
| KINE 401 | 4 | 0.9 |

The above table holds enrollment values for PE Option courses offered by Kinesiology in the **spring 2014** semester. KINE 304 is generally considered a PE course but is also taken by non-Kinesiology majors and typically has a higher enrollment. By comparison, Kinesiology courses in other Options regularly fill 2 sections of 35-40 students every semester. Overall, courses in the PE option accounted for 4% of the total FTES generated by the Kinesiology department in the Spring 2014 semester. In addition, while it would be impossible to poll the Pre-KINE majors, the attached spreadsheet shows continual decline in the number of declared PE majors and the number of students enrolled in PE classes since 2009.

The reduced demand for courses in the PE Option, coupled with the significant demand for courses in the other Kinesiology Options has made it necessary to suspend the PE Option until demand returns to sufficient levels. Much of the reduced demand for the PE option is due to a reduction in PE teaching jobs for graduates in North County. While there is a need for PE teachers in K-12 education in North County, reduced state funding has forced many schools to forego hiring teachers who are trained in Physical Education. Consequently, one of the first signals that demand for the PE option may be returning will be an increase in funding for K-12 education, particularly for Physical Education.