



**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 13, 2009

To: Academic Senate Executive Committee

From: Integrated Curriculum Committee

Re: Discontinuance of Athletic Training Education Program

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The Program Prioritization process resulted in a number of programs being placed in Category I, Enhance, and Category IV, Restructure or Eliminate. On 23 March 2009 Interim Provost Snyder released his recommendations regarding the future of all of the programs in Category IV and some of those in Category I. These programs were requested by the temporary Academic Planning Committee (APC) to submit a Report responding to the prioritization categorization and the Provost's recommendations to the newly formed Integrated Curriculum Committee (ICC) by 14 Sept. 2009.

This fall, the ICC assumed responsibility for completing the Post-prioritization process. The committee followed the process outlined by last year's ad hoc APC (links to pertinent documents can be found at the end of this memo). The ICC's Academic Master Planning Subcommittee (AMP) was assigned to complete an in-depth review of the program proposals and responses, and make a recommendation to the ICC for programs in Prioritization Category 4 using a university-wide perspective. To accomplish this, the AMP reviewed the recommendations of the prioritization task force, deans, and the provost; program responses to the prioritization report; program proposals requested by the APC and all pertinent documents submitted; and met with a program representative to discuss the proposals and recommendations. The AMP recommendation was then developed and referred to the ICC for discussion.

The AMP/ICC used the following guidelines when formulating the recommendation provided below.

- Begin with the Prioritization Task Force recommendation as the starting point.
- Review Prioritization criteria: alignment with HSU mission and vision, program quality, cost effectiveness, and program demand
- Determine whether the program response provides a compelling case for overriding the recommendations of Prioritization Task Force, Deans, and Provost.
- Consider the ramifications for other programs of overriding Category 4 recommendations, given the original goal of prioritization to change the campus program mix, combined with the current budget crisis and the need to reduce Academic Affairs' base budget.

In accordance with the requirements of the “Procedure for Post-Program Prioritization Process and the Academic Planning Committee,” a Post-Prioritization Program Committee for the Athletic Training Education Program was formed in May, 2009. The committee reached consensus that ATEP should be eliminated as one of the four option areas in Kinesiology. Among the reasons for this decision were the fact that we do not have enough registered Athletic Trainers in the area to allow the students to needed practicum hours as well as the fact that new accreditation standards would require HSU to develop a stand-alone Athletic Training major rather than an option within the degree.

After careful review of the ATEP Post-Prioritization Program Committee’s report, the Integrated Curriculum Committee recommends to the Senate that the ATEP should be eliminated as one of the four option areas in Kinesiology.

### **Links to relevant documents:**

Post-prioritization process:

<http://www.humboldt.edu/~aavp/Prioritization/Resolution12-08-09-EPAttachmentPASSEDApproved.pdf>

The Dean’s and Provost’s Recommendations can be found on the Prioritization web site:

<http://www.humboldt.edu/~aavp/Prioritization.html>

The Athletic Training Program Report (PR-002) can be found on the ICC Sharepoint Site at <https://its-sharepoint.humboldt.edu/sites/dold/icc/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

To log in use your HSU login and password. The report is located in the General Resources folder in the Post Prioritization Reports folder.

**Appendix:** The relevant sections of the Prioritization, Dean’s, and Provost’s reports (cut and pasted from the documents referenced above):

Prioritization Report: Kinesiology 2\*: Exciting new faculty and facilities. Looking good for the future. 4\*\*\*: Recommend elimination of ATEP and reinvestment in other program options.

Dean: I agree with the PTF conclusion that the Athletic Training Education Option (ATEP) in Department of Kinesiology should be permanently suspended or eliminated. My conclusion is based upon the Department of Kinesiology Prioritization report, the PTF report, the department’s vote to discontinue the option, and my analysis of the viability of the program. From my observation of the option, a number of variables indicate that continued suspension or elimination of the option is the only viable conclusion. Variables that support my conclusion include that the HSU region does not have sufficient practicum placements to support the number of students required to create an economically viable program. While a number of students select ATEP as their option of choice, the percentage that can actually be accepted into

the clinical portion of the program (junior/senior years) is less than 10% because of the limited number of practicum placements available. Further, the program must be accredited which would require significant enhancement of resources both to pay for the accreditation and to replace at least one full time faculty member. Third, the new accreditation standards mandate that Athletic Training be a stand-alone major. It can no longer be an option within the Department of Kinesiology.

Another suggestion from the prioritization final report was “Recommend elimination of ATEP and reinvestment in other program options.” I strongly support the suggestion to reinvest in other Kinesiology options especially since there are new faculty and facilities that need time and resources to develop.

It must be noted that elimination of the program is not without cost. Elimination of the option will result in problems associated with ancillary programs at HSU. The programs affected include Athletics, the Health Center, and Recreation Sports/Intramurals who use student trainers at some of their games. Athletics will likely have to hire at least one more full-time trainer. That could easily be someone like Deidre Scott who has a 9.50 WTU load for the Department of Kinesiology this semester in ATEP related courses and supervision. Kathy Munoz, Chair of the department, spoke with Rebecca Stauffer about the effect of ATEP elimination on the Health Center, and Rebecca indicated that the Health Center is not required to offer these services, but because we have the Training Room and students available to help injured students, it was a great service to offer. The Health Center pays Kinesiology to hire one GA so they would have money to hire a certified person to replace the GA if they decide to continue the service or they could refer students off campus. Further, Recreation Sports/Intramurals Rugby, Ultimate Frisbee and Lacrosse (men's and women's) are required to have trainers on site during games. They will probably have to hire someone to meet the requirements or refer the students to the HSU Health Center.

Other than the impact on ancillary programs outside of the academic program, I believe the Prioritization report presents the issues clearly. **In conclusion, the ATEP program should be eliminated or permanently suspended.** If the decision is to continue the program, the university will have to significantly enhance the funding to the Kinesiology Department including but not limited to hiring an additional full time faculty member. I also want to add that maintaining the program should not result in reducing additional funds that might otherwise be directed to the Department of Kinesiology as the department voted to suspend the program and focus their resources onto other options.

Provost: The Task Force and the Dean recommend that this option, within the Kinesiology major, be eliminated. The program report shows that there is high demand for the program but it graduates few students. The program has a long history of inadequate internship opportunities that makes it particularly expensive. I recommend that this program be eliminated. The APC should set up a committee to evaluate this recommendation. I recommend that that committee include a representative from Athletics.