

**FS P&BC Report to the FS APC (10/06/2023)**  
**on Proposed new BS in Exercise Physiology(BSEP) in CEHD**

**Overview (taken from Proposal, Budget, & LOI received from OAPA):**

Proposed (Face-2-Face) Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology (BSEP) program is a 120 cr-hr degree that is designed to be completed in eight semesters by full-time students and in 7.5 years by part-time students. This BSEP in CEHD is a “rebranding” of a long-standing current track in Exercise Science within the current Health and Human Performance (HHP) undergraduate degree in CEHD. This track is one of the largest undergraduate UofL programs (500+ students) and was the #1 Sports-Science Programs in the USA in 2021.

This new BSEP will focus on the scientific study of the physiological processes involved in physical/motor activity, including sensorimotor interactions, response mechanisms, and the effects of injury, disease, and disability. Course objectives will deliver a strong foundation in muscular and skeletal anatomy, molecular and cellular basis of muscle contraction, fuel utilization, neurophysiology of motor mechanics, systemic physiological responses (respiration, blood flow, endocrine secretions, and others), fatigue and exhaustion, muscle and body training, physiology of specific exercises and activities, physiology of injury, and the effects of disabilities and disease. The majority of courses in The proposed degree uses already-taught courses in the current HHP degree plus 3 new courses by the Exercise Physiology faculty.

The Exercise Science track in the HHP program currently generates over \$4.2 million annually in tuition revenue based on current full-time students, but the BSEP would expand to add significant revenue from future expansion to 400 part-time students. This proposed BSEP includes addition of 3 new faculty (1 term and 2 tenure-track) plus replacement of 2 other faculty over the next 3 years to relieve current faculty teaching overload and to reduce student/teacher ratios in classes from the current 40+ to a future ~30. This proposed BSEP program budget also includes substantial adjustments in current faculty salaries to approach averages for 100+ other higher education institutions. Even with these substantial increases in expenses, the current proposed BSEP budget anticipates program profitability in excess of \$250,000 in the first year of offering the new BSEP.

**Questions:**

Q1: The BSEP proposal projects 70+ new undergraduate students per year; however, demographics indicate that overall undergraduate enrollments for all higher education institutions will decline by 15% or more beginning in 2025. How will this Program adjust to avoid becoming a large deficit operation especially with the immediate large increase in current faculty salaries and the addition of 3 new faculty and MS-degreed teaching staff?

Q2: How will the projected increase in BSEP undergraduate enrollment not reduce undergraduate enrollment in other STEM units in A&S?

Q3: “The new Exercise Physiology degree program will replace an already successful (500 students generating ~\$4,2 million/yr) undergraduate degree track in Exercise Science in the BS in Health and Human Performance. Why is this new BS degree program better than an approach that expands the track options in the current HHP BS degree program? Why does CEHD want to replace a current nationally #1 undergraduate degree track with the new proposed BSEP proposal rather than expand the capacity for the current track?”

Q4: The proposed salary adjustments are based on data for over 100 other higher education institutions. Why does this proposal not use the more appropriate University-defined comparable institutions which do not include New York City and California Universities for example? Why won't the proposed faculty salary adjustments to be based on the current University faculty salary structure.

## **P&BC Recommendations:**

P&BC met with the proposed program director on Tuesday Oct 3 via Teams to discuss the above-stated questions, which clarified a number of issues.

R1: P&BC finds the proposed financial aspects of the proposed program to be appropriate since the salary adjustments are necessary to prevent further loss of faculty and to be successful in recruitment of the additional 5 new faculty. The current track is financially successful and sufficient to cover the increases expenses with modest gains in tuition revenue below what the program projects.

R2: P&BC finds that the uniqueness of the proposed program and the lack of state and regional competitors makes the enrollment projections reasonable even though they go against the expected “enrollment cliff” in 2025. This proposed BS program will likely increase enrollment of students who otherwise would not come to UofL for an undergraduate degree program but would go to one of the other 6 existing programs in Exercise Physiology at other Universities.

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Patrick D. Harris, PhD

Chair of the FS Planning & Budget Committee

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