



**CPR FINDINGS AND PLANS  
FOR THE  
B.S. WITH A MAJOR IN EXERCISE AND HEALTH SCIENCE  
AT KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY**

**MAJOR FINDINGS ON THE PROGRAM'S QUALITY, PRODUCTIVITY, & VIABILITY**

This major became a stand-alone degree program in Fall 1998. Prior to that time, it had been an optional concentration in the Health & Physical Education major. Because it was so new and had no graduates in FY98 and very few in its first year of operation in FY99, this program was originally triggered for special review by the System Office. Whereas the departmental self-study evaluated the program's quality and productivity as very strong, the University Program Review Council judged this program to be strong in quality, strong in productivity, and viable for continuation. The Council's lower ratings were tempered by perceived deficiencies in the number of faculty supporting the major, condition of the facilities, availability and funding for exercise science equipment, external funding, diversity, data on success of graduates and stakeholder satisfaction, and the lack of an advisory board. The self-study's and Council's ratings on the productivity indicators were in much greater agreement. The Council observed that this young program had already established an impressive record of productivity and was well matched with the large and growing exercise and health industry in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Although the Council was supportive of departmental plans for program improvement, it called for greater clarification of priorities, action plans, and timetables for improvement.

**PLANS FOR IMPROVING THE PROGRAM'S QUALITY, PRODUCTIVITY, & VIABILITY**

Some of the more notable plans for improvement include: completing construction in 2004 of a new \$18 million facility to house the Department of Health, Physical education, & Sport Science; replacing outdated equipment for exercise physiology, motor learning, and biomechanics with state-of-the-art equipment; increasing the number of faculty dedicated to supporting this degree program, seeking reassigned time for grant-writing; and exploring options for program accreditation, possibly through the American College of Sports Medicine.

**NEW RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

Kennesaw State's funding and expenditures per FTE student have been substantially below average throughout the university's relatively brief history. New funding and facilities have lagged KSU's exceptional rate of growth over the years. Consequently, the student/faculty ratio at KSU is exceptionally high, and the institution would need another 150 full-time faculty to reach the average of the other state and regional universities in the USG. In that context, there is substantial justification for enhancing most degree

programs with additional investments in full-time faculty support. However, this review and its recommendations

B.S. Exercise & Health Sci  
Page 2

were completed in the context of a statewide and national economic downturn, significant budget cutbacks in the State's, the University System's, and KSU's operating budgets, and little prospect of KSU receiving special catch-up funding from state appropriations in the near term.

State funds have already been secured and committed for the construction of new facilities needed to address weaknesses in this area of the program's quality. The UPRC recommended enhanced operating support, especially for additional faculty. An additional faculty line was budgeted from KSU's redirected and self-generated funds. The Council also encouraged the program to capitalize on its connections with the exercise and health industry to secure external funding and gifts.

**PLANS FOR INCREASING PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY ABOVE  
THRESHOLD  
(A TRIGGERED PROGRAM)**

Many of the plans cited above are expected to have a positive impact on student enrollment, enrollment of majors, student retention, and degree completion. This program was originally triggered for special review by the System Office because its degree productivity from FY98 to FY00 averaged 8 graduates a year. That average was somewhat misleading since the stand-alone degree program did not exist in FY98 and had surpassed the productivity threshold with 19 graduates in its second year of operation in FY00. Since then, the average number of graduates per year has grown to 37 for FY01 and FY02. Furthermore, the number of declared majors has grown rapidly to 159 by Fall 2002. These statistics suggest that it is highly unlikely that the program will fall below the Regents' productivity thresholds anytime in the foreseeable future.