

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

College of Human Sciences
Office of the Dean
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Ames, Iowa 50011-3190
(515) 294-7800
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Date: March 2, 2021

To: Dr. Jill Thorngren
Community Development program Board Liaison, Great Plains IDEA

Dr. Lona Robertson
Human Sciences Board, Chair-elect

Dr. Bronwyn Fees
Human Sciences Board, Chair

Dr. Chelsea Barbercheck
Executive Director, Great Plains IDEA

From: Dr. Laura D. Jolly
Dean, Dean's Chair
College of Human Sciences
Iowa State University

RE: Exploration of contributing membership

As noted by Associate Dean Jennifer Margrett during the February 23rd meeting of the Human Sciences Board, and previously discussed with the lead institution, Iowa State University is pursuing an independent online Community Development program. Our goal is begin dialogue to explore changing our membership to contributor status in regard to the Great Plains IDEA Community Development program.

We understand that this could be the first instance of contributing membership and are optimistic that internal and external conversations can lead to this outcome. We will work closely with Dr. Tim Borich, ISU faculty program lead, and Dr. Francis Owusu, ISU program chair, to explore this option in collaboration with partner institutions. We strive to be cognizant of our partners' needs and would like to facilitate a transition to contributing membership. Alternatively, if determined best by involved parties, we can begin discussions about a transition to fully withdraw from this program.

We appreciate the collaboration within the Community Development program, as well as within the Human Sciences Board. Thank you very much.

Best regards,



Cc: Dr. Jennifer Margrett, Interim Associate Dean, College of Human Sciences
Dr. Francis Owusu, Chair, Department of Community & Regional Planning
Dr. Cameron Campbell, Senior Associate Dean, College of Design
Dr. Luis Rico-Gutierrez, Dean, College of Design

October 14, 2019

Dr. Francis Owusu
Chair, Department of Community & Regional Planning
College of Design, Iowa State University

Dear Dr. Owusu,

I was pleased to review your proposal to offer a new master's degree program in community development. This field of study prepares students to assume a wide range of career roles in diverse venues, including government, non-profit organizations, and research centers. Graduates from the program will help society increase equity, sustainability, and social justice in human communities. The goal to offer the proposed program makes sense to me based on the societal need, demand among prospective students, and financial considerations. I gladly offer my support.

As the proposal describes, your concept is to assume autonomous responsibility for a similar on-line program offered now at Iowa State University via the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance. The alliance approach has functioned well for institutions that lack sufficient capacity to offer independent programs. But, in this instance, Iowa State University has the capacity necessary to offer an independent master's program of high quality. Compared to what we offer now through the alliance, the program that you propose is expected to save students time, lessen students' financial burden, and enhance institutional revenue. Notably, only one course will need to be developed because most of the curriculum is in place.

The current program to which Iowa State University contributes via the alliance is housed administratively within the master's program in interdisciplinary graduate studies (IGS). As the director of IGS, I have witnessed the steady stream of applications for the study of community development, which demonstrates demand. Your proposal will allow community development to transition away from IGS and develop a stronger identity, which should facilitate marketing and enrollment. Thank you taking the initiative to propose what I see as an improved way to offer students an accessible and enriching graduate program in the important field of community development.

Sincerely,



William R. Graves
Dean of the Graduate College

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Agricultural Education and Studies
513 Farm House Lane
201 Curtiss Hall
Ames, Iowa 50011-1050
Administration and Graduate Programs 515 294-5872
Undergraduate Programs 515 294-6924
Extension Programs 515 294-4076
FAX 515 294-0530

Date: 11/06/2020

To: Francis Owusu



From: Michael S. Retallick
Professor and Department Chair

Subject: Changes to MS in Community Development Support Letter

The Department of Community and Regional Planning (CRP) is proposing to move the MS Community Development (CDEV) degree from Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) to the department. Under the proposal, the program will be housed in the CRP department and will also draw from courses from departments across campus including our department (AgEdS). The AgEdS department has reviewed the proposal. Based on the information provided, we have no reservations or concerns and would support this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposal.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

Community and Economic Development
2321 North Loop Drive, Suite 121
Ames, IA 50010-8218
515-294-8397
FAX 515-294-1354

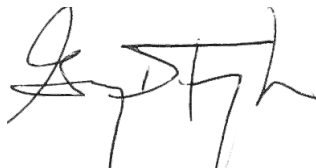
November 4, 2020

TO: Francis Owusu, Chair, Community and Regional Planning
FR: Gary Taylor, Director, Extension Community and Economic Development Program
RE: CDEV program proposal

Dr. Owusu,

I wish to express my support for the Masters in Community Development online program proposed by the Department of Community and Regional Planning. As we have discussed on several occasions, I believe this program will fill a need for online advanced degree opportunities sought by Extension professionals across the country. There is an Extension system similar to Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in all fifty states. Many of the educators aligned with these systems are based in rural and often remote locations. For many, an advanced degree is necessary for advancement within their states' Extension system but difficult to pursue where they live. An online program in community development - a field core to the mission of Extension - would prove to be an attractive option for these professionals who cannot pursue in-person instruction at a university. Close to home, the county offices here in Iowa employ many staff and educators without advanced degrees. The CDEV program presents them with a convenient-yet-rigorous option for strengthening their credentials.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.



Subject: RE: Letter of Support for Online Masters in Community Development program
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 8:51:09 PM Central Standard Time
From: Nettleton, Daniel S [STAT]
To: Owusu, Francis Y [C R P]

Dear Professor Owusu,

Thank you for sharing the proposal to move the MS Community Development (CDEV) degree from Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) to the Department of Community and Regional Planning (CRP). I am glad to see STAT 587 as a program requirement. That course is most appropriate for the degree program. I support the proposed change.

Thanks and best regards,
Dan

Dan Nettleton
Laurence H. Baker Chair
Distinguished Professor and Chair
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
dnett.github.io
he|him|his

From: Owusu, Francis Y [C R P] <fowusu@iastate.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Nettleton, Daniel S [STAT] <dnett@iastate.edu>
Subject: Letter of Support for Online Masters in Community Development program

Dear Professor Nettleton,
The Department of Community and Regional Planning (CRP) is proposing to move the MS Community Development (CDEV) degree from Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) to the department. The C.Dev program, which has existed here at ISU for many years, is part of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA) consortium. Under the proposal, the program will be housed in the CRP department and will also draw from courses from departments across campus, including Statistics. The full proposal for the program is attached.

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to provide a letter of support for the program. If possible, could you please send the letter of support (an email expressing your support will do) to me by November 9th?

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Francis Owusu, Ph D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Community & Regional Planning
Iowa State University
715 Bissell Road
146 College of Design
Ames IA, 50011-3091

Phone: (515) 294-7769

Fax: (515) 294-1440

E-mail: fowusu@iastate.edu

<https://www.design.iastate.edu/community-and-regional-planning/faculty/fowusu/>

Subject: Re: Letter of Support for Online Masters in Community Development program
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 at 12:09:27 PM Central Standard Time
From: Dahlstrom, Michael F [GSJC]
To: Owusu, Francis Y [C R P]

Dear Francis,

The Greenlee School discussed your proposal at our faculty meeting on Nov. 6, 2020 and we formally support this move for your program. Thank you for reaching out to us and let us know if you need anything else at this time.

Michael Dahlstrom

From: Owusu, Francis Y [C R P] <fowusu@iastate.edu>
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 at 10:56 AM
To: Dahlstrom, Michael F [GSJC] <mfd@iastate.edu>
Subject: Letter of Support for Online Masters in Community Development program

Dear Professor Dahlstrom,

The Department of Community and Regional Planning (CRP) is proposing to move the MS Community Development (CDEV) degree from Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) to the department. The C.Dev program, which has existed here at ISU for many years, is part of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA) consortium. Under the proposal, the program will be housed in the CRP department and will also draw from courses from departments across campus, including Journalism and communication. The full proposal for the program is attached.

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to provide a letter of support for the program. If possible, could you please send the letter of support (an email expressing your support will do) to me by November 9th?

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Francis Owusu, Ph D.

Professor and Chair

Department of Community & Regional Planning

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<https://www.design.iastate.edu/community-and-regional-planning/faculty/fowusu/>

Subject: RE: Letter of Support for Online Masters in Community Development program
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 at 8:44:22 PM Central Standard Time
From: Shelley, Mack C [POL S]
To: Owusu, Francis Y [C R P]
CC: Tuckness, Alex [POL S]

Hi, Francis.

Thank you for your message.

Political Science has no objection to the proposal.

All the best.

--Mack

Mack Shelley
University Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science
Iowa State University
509 Ross Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1204
mshelley@iastate.edu
phone [515-294-1075](tel:515-294-1075)/fax [515-294-1003](tel:515-294-1003); cell phone 515-230-1664
<http://www.pols.iastate.edu/faculty/mack-shelley/>

“A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?”

— [George Washington](#)

From: Owusu, Francis Y [C R P]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Shelley, Mack C [POL S] <mshelley@iastate.edu>
Subject: Letter of Support for Online Masters in Community Development program

Dear Mack,

The Department of Community and Regional Planning (CRP) is proposing to move the MS Community Development (CDEV) degree from Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) to the department. The C.Dev program, which has existed here at ISU for many years, is part of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA) consortium. Under the proposal, the program will be housed in the CRP department and will also draw from courses from departments across campus, including Political Science. The full proposal for the program is attached.

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to provide a letter of support for the program. If possible, could you please send the letter of support (an email expressing your support will do) to me by November 9th?

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Francis Owusu, Ph D.

Professor and Chair
Department of Community & Regional Planning

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