TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell
Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

SUBJECT: Change of Grade Point Average Requirement
Department of Health and Human Performance (UC 9410 055)

DATE: July 19, 2005

This report considers a request to raise the departmental entrance requirements to all current limited and non-certified degree programs offered by the Department of Health and Human Performance from 2.00 to 2.30 grade point average. Participating in a discussion of the request held on Tuesday, June 28 were committee members Joel Bloom, Mario Lucchina, Richard Scamell and Rebecca Asher-Thooren.

Background:
The Department of Health and Human Performance offers a variety of Bachelor of Science degrees:

- B.S. degrees in Health and Kinesiology with secondary certification.
- B.S. degrees in Kinesiology (Exercise Science and Sports Administration) without teacher certification.
- A B.S. degree in Physical Education with all-level certification.
- A B.S. degree in Human Nutrition and Foods with American Dietetic Association certification.
- An A.S. degree in Health and Human Performance.

Several interesting facts were offered in support of this request. One is the continued growth in the number of students interested in occupations affiliated with health care and wellness (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, fitness trainers and associated instructors, dietitians, health educators, physician assistants, etc.) listed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as among the fastest growing occupations in the United States. Over the past ten years, this growth has resulted in an increase in the number of majors from 550 to 1,500 students. On the negative side, the Employment of Health and Human Performance is unable to approximate this growth in demand as a result of a migration to classroom and lab space due to (a) the relocation of the Math Essentials to the Martins Gymnasium, a space that has been designated by the local Department of Education for physical activity courses and (b) the loss of the large classroom in Galway 205 to the Department of Mathematics for exclusive use in teaching math courses. In addition, over the past five years, this increased student demand has been accompanied by a twenty-five percent decrease in tenure-track faculty positions (from 20 to 15) and the greater reliance on part-time lecturers, which creates a mixed program quality and consistency. The imposition of the proposed entrance requirement is seen as a way to simultaneously control enrollment and improve the quality of the students entering the department. Finally, the Department has conducted an analysis of the entering grade point average of all current Health and Human Performance students and has determined that no particular demographic (gender, ethnic, or program area) would be disproportionately impacted by the raising of the department's entrance grade point average.

Recommendation:
What is not known is how much this change in admission requirements will reduce the number of students in the Department of Health and Human Performance. However, the Committee unanimously supports the wishes of both the Department as approved by the College of Education. To raise its admissions standards. In order to communicate the new admission requirements to students interested in majoring in the Department of Health and Human Performance, the Committee recommends that the section entitled 'Admissions Requirements' be inserted in the section of Undergraduate Studies Catalog that describes the Department of Health and Human Performance degree programs and curricula. Further, the Committee recommends that this section follow the sections 'Physical Education' and 'Degree Programs' and precede the section 'Degrees with Certificates'.

Suggested Statement of Admission Requirements for the Undergraduate Studies Catalog:
In order to become a major in any of the certified or non-certified degree programs offered by the Department of Health and Human Performance, University of Houston students must have a minimum 2.30 cumulative grade point average in all college course work. University of Houston students who have completed 60 or more semester hours of college level work at another University of Houston or other colleges must have a minimum 2.30 cumulative grade point average in the last 60 semester hours to enter one of the Department's degree programs. The computation of the grade point average over the last 60 semester hours will include all grades for the semester in which the sixtieth hour occurs. Students whose grades or suspension are not eligible enter one of the Department's degree programs.