

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Proposal for a New Institute of Science and Society at Iowa State University
Date: June 9, 2003

Recommended Action: Approve Iowa State University's proposal to establish a new Institute of Science and Society.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University is requesting approval for a new Institute of Science and Society.

Purpose of Institute The purpose of the Institute is to facilitate the study of the impact of science and technological innovation on society, and the impact of social values on the conduct and use of scientific research.

Program Objectives The proposed Institute will build on interdisciplinary collaboration in science, agriculture, humanities, and the social sciences with the following objectives:

- ▣ Study and evaluate the risks and benefits of scientifically derived innovations on the economy, environment, governance, social, and cultural practices;
- ▣ Foster communication of science within society and cultivate an informed public to make wise and respectful choices;
- ▣ Evaluate the role of ethical, religious worldviews, moral traditions, and culture on technological applications, science policy, and market transactions.

Participating Colleges The proposed Institute will be administered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with advice from the College of Agriculture and the Plant Sciences Institute. The Institute will operate with 90 affiliate faculty members from 15 academic departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Unique Concept According to the University, the Institute of Science and Society is a unique concept not only in Iowa but in the nation.

Link to Strategic Plan:

This effort is part of the institutional activities which help the Board of Regents achieve its objective to improve access to research opportunities at the Regent institutions as stated in its current Strategic Plan:

- KRA 2.0.0.0 Provide access to educational, research, and service opportunities within the missions of the Regent institutions.
- Strategy 1.1.4.0 Strengthen research, creative work, and service by the Regent institutions.
- Action Step 1.1.4.1 Each university enhance its research efforts consistent with its mission.

Background:

The Institute of Science and Society is a targeted program in ISU's current strategic plan. A critical aspect of this initiative is discovery, learning, and engagement related to the ethics, as well as the social, economic, and environmental impacts of this and other scientific research endeavors.

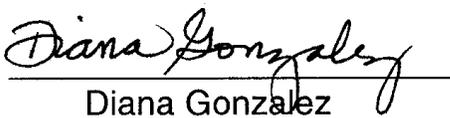
Analysis:

Requires Board Approval

Board of Regents policy requires Board approval for proposed centers and institutes that require more than \$25,000 for implementation. The projected cost of the Institute in FY 2004 is \$456,312. The Institute will be funded through a reallocation of ISU funds from the President's Office and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Regent Questions for New Centers

The University's responses to the Regent questions on new centers and institutes are attached (pages 3-5).


Diana Gonzalez

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

Institute of Science and Society

1. What is the title of the proposed center or institute?

Institute of Science and Society

2. What is the administrative relationship of the proposed unit to other entities on campus, such as departments or colleges?

Administered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with advice from the College of Agriculture and the Plant Sciences Institute

The Institute operates with 90 affiliate faculty members from 15 academic departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

3. To whom will the administrative director of the unit report?

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

4. Succinctly describe the basic purposes and objectives of the unit.

The purpose of the institute is to facilitate the serious study of the impact of science and technological innovation on society, and the impact of social values on the conduct and use of scientific research. The institute builds on interdisciplinary collaboration in science, agriculture, humanities, and the social sciences with the following objectives:

- Study and evaluate the risks and benefits of scientifically derived innovations on the economy, environment, governance, social and cultural practices;
- Foster communication of science within society and cultivate a public informed enough to make wise and respectful choices;
- Evaluate the role of ethical, religious worldviews, moral traditions, and culture on technological applications, science policy, and market transactions.

a. How will the activities of the unit relate to the general mission and teaching programs of the university?

The Institute of Science and Society is a multidisciplinary research and civic engagement forum and consists of faculty, students, and staff at Iowa State University dedicated to the discovery, understanding, normative evaluation, and dissemination of knowledge related to the impact of science and technological change on people and society. The Institute is established to facilitate and enhance particularly current educational programs in technology and social change, bioethics, and science and risk communication. Over time, additional educational efforts such as a graduate minor may be undertaken.

b. How do they relate to the strategic plan of the department and/or university?

Iowa State University has a long tradition of associating science with practice. The current strategic plan aims to pursue a limited number of targeted programs, based on Iowa State's strengths, in synergy with state, national, and international interests. One such targeted program is the Plant Sciences Institute. Other visionary initiatives include Food Safety and Security, Biorenewable Resources, Information Infrastructure, Animal Genomics, Human Computer Interaction, and Combinatorial Discovery. A critical aspect of such initiatives, and essential in its own right, is discovery, learning, and engagement related to the ethics, as well as the social, economic, and environmental impacts of this and other scientific research endeavors.

The Institute of Science and Society is envisioned to be a coordinating mechanism to facilitate the serious study of the impact of science on society, and the impact of society on the conduct and use of scientific research. To carry out these objectives effectively,

- The Institute is actively engaged with students, policy makers, communication practitioners, and the broader public in discussing and evaluating these research issues, and in developing open and shared ways to communicate topics about the conduct, impact, moral bases, and role of science in society.
- The Institute coordinates subject matters and research methods, gathers essential source data via surveys and other activities, encourages a broad perspective on problems, attracts world class scholars as collaborators, holds symposia, and colloquia on important issues, and serves as a communication vehicle for increasing the understanding of science among the non-scientific community.

5. Do similar units exist at other public or private colleges or universities in Iowa? If so, how does the proposed unit relate to them?

The Institute of Science and Society is a unique concept not only in Iowa but also in the nation. The concept has generated serious discussion in recent years within the American scientific community. Iowa State University has taken an initiative to lead the nation and the world in the broad science and society dialogue. This initiative bodes well with Iowa State University being a leading land grant university.

6. What are the proposed sources and annual amounts of funding for the unit? Please itemize. (Include faculty, staff, and clerical salaries; supplies; equipment; travel; other costs)

FY 2004		
<u>BUDGETARY ITEM</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>ANNUAL AMOUNT</u>
Faculty hires (4)	President's Enhancement	\$200,000
Balance of Salary and Benefits	LAS College	134,812
Co-Directors (2)	LAS College	47,526
Graduate assistants (2)	LAS College	27,974
Computer WEB site	LAS College	5,000
Seed grants	LAS College	28,000
Speakers, Colloquia, Public Workshop	LAS College	11,000
<u>Supplies & Service</u>	<u>LAS College</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>\$456,312</u>

7. Which of the costs in item 6 represent new financial obligations to the general fund of the university?

The Institute will be funded via a reallocation of ISU funds (from the President and within the College of LAS).