PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MAJOR IN WOMEN'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND
A MAJOR IN MEN'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN--MILWAUKEE,
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER, 1961

Historical Background

The fields of health, physical education and recreation have long constituted
instructional interests of the state supported institution in Milwaukee--now the University
of Wisconsin--Milwaukee. The institution's involvement in these areas dates back to the
adoption of a health education minor in 1926. In 1929 the emphasis of the Milwaukee program
was extended to the broad field of physical education with a minor approved and offered in
September of that year. A major in recreation was added to the curriculum of the Physical
Education Department in 1953, designed to prepare students to direct community recreation,
playground and social center activities.

In the mid-1950s, accompanying marked changes in college enrollments, came a change
in the outlook of the State College Board of Regents regarding the policy of restricting
special educational programs to a single college. In line with this change in viewpoint
were requests from Milwaukee and Oshkosh State Colleges for the institution of physical
education majors for men and women on those campuses. These requests came during the
1955-56 school year, the time of the merger of Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee and the
University of Wisconsin Extension Center in Milwaukee. A sub-group of the Committee of
Thirty reviewing requests for new programs during the merger reorganization and transition
period acknowledged the importance of such requests but because of budgetary complications
and the concern for avoiding unnecessary duplication advised that the Milwaukee request be
deferred until the merger had been fully effected.

Since the merger the matter of physical education majors for men and women at the
UW--M has been under discussion and careful study. The paragraphs which follow give a
brief overview of the results of such discussion and study.

Need for the Programs

The need for programs to increase the supply of competent women physical education
teachers has been apparent for nearly a decade. Wisconsin State Department of Public
Instruction records disclose a serious shortage of women physical education teachers.
According to Assistant Superintendent Lewis, "...the situation will remain serious..
unless more institutions are given the right to prepare major programs for women." The
need for this major for women was supported in 1958 by the State Coordinating Committee
on Higher Education and has been reaffirmed by the Milwaukee County Superintendent, as
well as by a survey of school systems in the lakeshore region.

The need for a major in men's physical education must be understood in terms of
several significant factors other than an actual shortage of personnel in this field. The
first of these is the need for a program which, in the words of Milwaukee County
Superintendent Michael Kies "...will make available in the Milwaukee area a series of
recognized courses through which teachers who are now in our schools with minors in
physical education can continue to improve their competency with courses which will, in
assured sequence, lead them to meeting full certification requirements for a major in
this field." The second factor is the rapid expansion of elementary school physical
education programs which call for a growing number of both men and women who are oriented
toward physical education activities for younger children rather than toward high school
coaching. A third factor may be found in the department organization at the UW--M,
representing as it does a combined program for men and women rather than separate programs
as is true on the Madison campus. Most efficient use of departmental organization, program
and faculty would support offering the major for both men and women.
The population of the lakeshore region in Wisconsin would seem clearly to warrant programs of teacher preparation in physical education at a state institution readily accessible to its young men and women; particularly those with limited financial means, for whom attending school away from home would represent an economic hardship. The need for these programs can be met now on the Milwaukee campus within the framework of existing staff positions and present facilities and will require no additional budgetary requests for their initiation. Several existing faculty positions to be filled within the next year will provide the flexibility to employ new staff with competencies specifically focused on aspects of the major programs.

Review Procedures to Date

March, 1957 Joint Conference Committee on Professional Physical Education approved initiation of majors in men's and women's physical education in Milwaukee.

December, 1958 Joint Conference Committee on Professional Physical Education recommended that a major in women's physical education be added immediately at the UW-M and that the major in men's physical education be instituted as soon as feasible.

May, 1959 Advisory Council to UW and UW-M Schools of Education recommended that UW-M proceed immediately with major for women and that major for men also be considered because of need in lakeshore region for converting minors to majors in seven year period required by certification regulations.

May, 1960 Curricula for men's and women's majors approved by departmental joint conference committee.

May, 1960 Advisory conference with State Department of Public Instruction.

May, 1960 Approval of modified curricula for men's and women's majors by School of Education Faculty.

October, 1960 School of Education Joint Conference Committee approval of proposal for women's major, and approval of proposal for men's major provided that the Coordinating Committee on Higher Education be asked to review its 1958 recommendation which was restricted to the women's major in the light of general supply and demand, demand for such a program by students in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, need for male physical education teachers specifically prepared for elementary schools, and the need for a program to permit men with a minor in this field to complete the work of a major on an in-service education basis.

October, 1960 Approval by Dean of School of Education of modified curricula for men's and women's majors.

Overview of Curricula

The proposed curricula for both men's and women's majors meet the following standards for certification of physical education teachers:

a) The major in physical education shall consist of a minimum of 34 semester credits (effective 1962) with the license restricted to specific subjects within the field if the major is not sufficiently broad.

b) Persons pursuing majors in the special teaching fields (such as physical education) shall also prepare themselves with an academic teaching minor. (22 semester credits)
c) The professional sequence shall include the areas of educational psychology, child growth and development, curriculum, methods, and student teaching. Preparation for teaching assignments covering both elementary and secondary levels must include student teaching at a minimum of two grade levels.

The curricula are divided into the following broad categories:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Education and Related Academic Courses</td>
<td>49 semester hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Minor</td>
<td>22 semester hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Education (including 10 credits student teaching)</td>
<td>24 semester hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education Major</td>
<td>34 semester hours</td>
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Summary

The preceding statements have necessarily been brief. Those persons interested in a detailed presentation of these proposals may secure on request a 23 page document from the School of Education Office on the Kenwood Campus.