

Developing and sustaining the Health Science *and Kinesiology* section of the Oregon Academy of Science: Where do we go from here?

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For the 78th annual Oregon Academy of Science (OAS) conference, the OAS Council, under the leadership of OAS President Andrew Baggett (Linfield College, McMinnville, OR), approved a section labeled “Health Science and Kinesiology” on a trial basis. The extension of the already existing “Health Science” section to include “and Kinesiology” was the result of a series of exchanges between President Baggett and Bradley J. Cardinal, a Professor in Oregon State University’s Kinesiology Program and the 2018-2019 President of the National Academy of Kinesiology. There was a desire among the OAS leadership to revive the pre-existing but dormant “Health Science” section, which created an opportunity for Kinesiology. In part this harkens back the 19th century when departments of “Hygiene and Physical Culture” first emerged on college and university campuses (Cardinal et al., 2015; Cardinal et al., 2012). Today, Kinesiology is a field focused on physical activity and its impact on health, society, and quality of life. The National Research Council recognizes it as a Life Science discipline. It is most commonly organized around a sub-disciplinary/multi-disciplinary structure that is further ordered within three broad spheres (i.e., behavioral, biophysical, and sociocultural). The science and application of Kinesiology ranges from cell to society. It is also one of the largest academic majors in the United States (Thomas, 2014). In part this is because Kinesiology is viewed as a pathway degree into various allied health careers (e.g., Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physicians Assistant), including the study of medicine. As 2019 is a trial year for this section within the OAS, this session will focus on determining whether the current organizational structure is sustainable and, if so, how to attract even more widespread participation in the activities of the OAS among researchers, educators, and students.

References

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