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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
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July 27, 2017

AIMÉE DORR
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Approval of Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree Program at UC San Diego

Dear Aimée:

In accordance with the *Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the “Compendium”), and on the recommendation of CCGA, the Academic Council has approved UC San Diego’s proposal to establish a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program.

Because this is a new degree, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA’s approval, Council must approve the program per Senate Bylaw 125.B.7.

I am enclosing CCGA’s report on its review of the new degree, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President’s approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Chalfant".

Jim Chalfant, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council
Senate Director Baxter
Senate Executive Directors



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Kwai Ng, Chair
kwng@mail.ucsd.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

July 14, 2017

ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR JIM CHALFANT

Dear Jim:

At its July 5, 2017 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted unanimously to approve UC San Diego's proposal for a new graduate program leading to a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree offered by its Department of Family Medicine and Public Health (FMPH). It is a self-supporting two-year program that aims to train medical students, pharmacy students, physicians, and other health professionals in public health sciences to complement traditional health care training.

The specific aims for the program are to provide an integrated and comprehensive Master's-level curriculum in the core public health sciences as well as rigorous training in both the applied and academic/research aspects of public health. Students will also receive substantive training in a specific domain of public health through specialization in a program track.

The MPH program will provide instruction in the core public health disciplines: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Sciences, Health Policy and Management, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The program plans to admit 25 and 35 students in the first two years, respectively; with enrollment climbing in the following years to reach approximately 50 students admitted per year. The program will reach a steady state of 100 to 110 students total.

The curriculum is set up with the goal to integrate students into the faculty's research programs. They will be given key opportunities for gaining experience as a research and/or teaching assistant, which will have direct relevance and applicability to the chosen career path, and experiential learning and mentoring through practicum, capstone/thesis, and other service and leadership opportunities working in applied research and/or public health settings.

The MPH proposal complements existing programs within the Department well including the undergraduate BSPH, the four residency training programs, the joint PhD in Public Health, and the upcoming PhD in Biostatistics. The proposal has identified outstanding teaching faculty that are available to teach both core and elective courses within the MPH. With the Department's strong background in research and teaching excellence as well as the commitment of additional FTE support, CCGA is satisfied that there are ample resources for the successful launch of the program.

Three reviews were solicited by CCGA. One was from UC campuses, two from private universities. Three have their academic appointments in public health and preventive medicine departments and are experienced in running MPH programs. The reviews were generally supportive of the program. Their comments focused on the curriculum. Reviewers offered recommendations on aligning course offerings and requirements with the latest accreditation criteria developed by the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH). In addition, concerns were raised about the need to hire seven new faculty members in unspecified areas, the question of whether enrollment targets were realistic, and the balance between research focus vs. practical training in the program.

The proposers provided a detailed response to the concerns raised by the reviewers, and modified the proposed extensively as part of their response. Most important, the course curriculum has been revised to comply with CEPH accreditation requirements. Since the original proposal was submitted, five of the seven new faculty members have been hired. The proposers also provided new evidence from their own student surveys that there would be a strong demand for the MPH program. UC San Diego also responded to other comments raised by the reviewers at length.

CCGA believes the proposed UC San Diego MPH Program has been rendered stronger by the review process. The expert reviewers have confirmed that it meets the criteria for quality and rigor. Other aspects of the proposal also seem to more than satisfy the expectations of reviewers and CCGA members.

As you know, CCGA's approval is usually the last stop of the Academic Senate side of the systemwide review and approval process except when the new degree title must be approved by the President, under delegated authority from the Board of Regents. Given its status as a new graduate program title on the UC San Diego campus, CCGA submits its approval of the Master of Public Health degree program for formal approval by the Assembly of the Academic Senate. For your information, I have included our lead reviewer's final report as an enclosure.

Respectfully submitted,



Kwai Ng
Vice Chair, CCGA

cc: Shane White, Academic Council Vice Chair
CCGA Members
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director
Kimberly Peterson, Academic Planning Analysis Manager
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst
Ray Rodriguez, UCSD Senate Executive Director
Lori Hullings, UCSD Senate Associate Director

Enclosures (1)

Date: June 17, 2017

To: CCGA

From: Daniel Neumark, Lead Reviewer

Re: UC San Diego Proposal for Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree

1. Description of Proposed Program

The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health (FMPH) at UC San Diego proposes a new Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program to start in Fall 2018. This will be a Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Program (SSGDP). The MPH program will focus on recruiting and training the most promising Bachelor's degree graduates for public health service careers or to pursue doctoral level training in public health. The MPH program will also aim to train medical students, pharmacy students, physicians, and other health professionals in public health sciences to complement traditional health care training. Students will be integrated into the faculty's research programs, receiving a strong 2-year, research focused educational experience that will include a capstone (thesis optional) requirement. Thus, the program will offer a strong foundation of research and practice-related skills. The specific aims for the program are to provide (i) an integrated and comprehensive Master's-level curriculum in the core public health sciences, (ii) rigorous training in both the applied and academic/research aspects of public health, (iii) substantive training in a specific domain of public health through specialization in a program track, (iv) key opportunities for gaining experience as a research and/or teaching assistant, which will have direct relevance and applicability to the chosen career path, and (v) experiential learning and mentoring through practicum, capstone/thesis, and other service and leadership opportunities working in applied research and/or public health settings.

The MPH program will focus on recruiting and training the most promising Bachelor's degree graduates for public health service careers or to pursue doctoral level training in public health. It will also aim to train medical students, pharmacy students, physicians, and other health professionals in public health sciences to complement traditional health care training. The MPH program will integrate students within faculty-led research programs and provide a strong 2-year research focused educational experience that will include a capstone requirement with a thesis option.

The proposed program will provide instruction in the core public health disciplines: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Sciences, Health Policy and Management, and Social and Behavioral Sciences as well as engaging across campus to address key aspects of 21st century public health including climate change and data science. The department anticipates that there will be 25 and 35 students admitted in the first 2 years, respectively; with enrollment climbing in the following years to reach approximately 50 students admitted per year. The program aims to reach a steady state of 100 to 110 students total.

2. Program Review

Three external reviews for the proposed MPH program were obtained. All three reviewers were willing to have their identities revealed to the proposers. The reviewers were:

Prof. Jack Colford, School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology, UC Berkeley

Prof. Wendy Hellerstedt, School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, University of Minnesota

Prof. Michael Fagen, Department of Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

All three reviews were supportive of the program, but two raised concerns about various aspects of the proposal. The most serious criticisms focused on insuring that the course offerings and requirements were compatible with accreditation criteria developed by the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH). In addition, concerns were raised about the need to hire seven new faculty members in unspecified areas, the question of whether enrollment targets were realistic, and the balance between research focus vs. practical training in the program.

The proposers provided a document with a point-by-point response to the concerns raised by the reviewers, and modified the proposed extensively as part of their response. The course curriculum has been modified and is outlined in detail, demonstrating that it now complies with CEPH accreditation requirements. Since the original proposal was submitted, five of the seven new faculty members have been hired. Regarding enrollment, the proposers have surveyed the approximately 500 undergraduates in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program at UCSD and found that 20% were interested in obtaining an MPH degree. The proposers thus believe that there is demand for a new MPH program and that the proposed size is not overly ambitious. Finally, the proposal has been modified to clarify that the MPH program offers both research and practice-based options by requiring students to either write a thesis or carry out a capstone project. These options are in line with already established MPH programs at other UC campuses.

3. CCGA Discussion

The proposal was discussed at the CCGA meeting on June 7. One issue that arose was the number of faculty who would supervise the capstone project. It was originally proposed that two faculty would supervise each capstone project. However, in response to one of the reviewers, this was scaled back to one. At the CCGA meeting, it was pointed out that at least two faculty supervisors are required for a capstone project. The proposers were notified and

agreed to revert to their original plan to be in compliance with CCGA guidelines.

4. Recommendation

The proposers have responded in a detailed and positive manner to the points raised by the external reviewer, making a strong proposal even better. I recommend approval.