To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Sally Friedman, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: March 23, 2009

Subject: Report and Recommendations

CC&I Members: J. Champagne, G. Denbeaux, S. Friedman, A. Pomerantz, B. Thiel and F. Bolton (staff) were present. S. Newman and J. Rivera-Wilson were unable to attend.

Guests: Dr. Mary Applegate, Associate Dean, School of Public Health
Dr. Barry Sherman, Ph.D. Director, DrPH program

Four items of business were considered.

1. School of Public Health – Proposal to modify its DrPH program

The School of Public Health asked to increase its DrPH program’s 9 credit core course requirement to 12 credits. Rather than being required to take three specific courses, students would have the opportunity to choose four courses from a listing of six. These six core courses place greater emphasis on the topic of leadership. There will be no credit change to the 75 credit program as the number of earned dissertation credits was reduced from 15 credits to 12 credits.

Also proposed was the reduction of the DrPH’s current four concentrations in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Health Policy and Management, and Social Behavior and Community Health to two concentrations – one in Epidemiology/Biostatistics and another in Health Policy, Management and Behavior. These broader departmental concentrations are to permit more flexibility in the curriculum. Students will have greater opportunity to take more upper level electives and can now be encouraged to take advantage of courses in public health sector policy and management offered in the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

The proposal received the approval of the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction by a 5-0-0 vote.

The CC&I suggested to Dr. Applegate and Dr. Sherman, who attended the meeting as guests, that discussion be stimulated within the School of Public Health to reconsider their historical practice of assigning variable R/U (research credit or unsatisfactory) grading to dissertation credits and to replace it with L/U (load only or unsatisfactory) grading.

2. School of Public Health – Proposal to revise its Master of Public Health program

In response to accreditation requirements, educational marketplace changes and new skills needed by today’s public health workers, the School of Public Health presented a proposal that included:

(1) modifications to the core courses required of all students – 21 credit core curriculum reduced to 18 credits with the removal of Epi 503, Principles of Public Health, which was no longer needed to meet competencies

(2) improvements to the students’ capstone experience – added a required 2 credit First Year Seminar and a 1 credit required Capstone Seminar

(3) reduction of required internship credits – program was considered to be "heavy" in its internship experience compared to other schools of public health; 3 less credits will now be required in order to provide opportunity to take an extra course in student’s chosen area of concentration
(4) changes to track-specific requirements in several of the existing six concentration areas – 18 credit requirement for each area increased to 21 credits to provide for more elective choices

(5) addition of two new concentration areas – Preventive Health Medicine and Public Health Practice

The proposal was well explained and complete and the rationale provided was clear. The overall number of credits needed to complete the program remained the same. The Committee voted unanimously (5-0-0) to endorse the revisions and to move the proposal forward to GAC for further action.

3. School of Business – Addition of elective track in Nano Technology

After review and discussion the Committee found it had questions left unanswered by the proposal. These questions were compiled and will be sent to the originator of the proposal for clarification. No action was taken.

4. College of Arts and Sciences – Revision to MS Atmospheric Science Program

The Course Action Forms submitted as requests to change the course requirements of the MS Atmospheric Science program were found to be lacking in overview and rationale. The Committee asked that the revisions be returned for a more detailed explanation. No action was taken.