



# **Davis Division Academic Senate**

## **Request for Consultation Responses**

### **Proposal for Minor in Public Health Sciences**

**January 20, 2017**

The Department of Health Sciences is proposing a Minor in Public Health Sciences. This is an updated proposal; the Davis Division's previous response is attached to the end of the proposal.

# **FEC: School of Medicine**

**January 3, 2017 1:33 PM**

Rachael Goodhue  
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

RE: Comments from the School of Medicine Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Proposal for Minor in Public Health Services

Dear Dr. Goodhue:

Thank you for allowing the School of Medicine Faculty Executive Committee to weigh in on the RFC for the Minor in Public Health Services proposal. This proposal has been discussed at one of our meetings. All of the members have received the proposal to read in detail. The committee is in agreement that there is a need for this minor. We thought that the curriculum was well designed and appropriate. The School of Medicine FEC unanimously supports this minor.

Thank you for your invitation to comment. If you need any further information, please contact me.

Respectfully,  
Stuart H. Cohen, M.D.

# **Graduate Council**

**January 26, 2017 8:54 AM**

*Response continued on next page.*

January 26, 2017

**To:** Academic Chair Goodhue  
**Re:** Proposal for Minor in Public Health Sciences

Graduate Council appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Minor in Public Health Sciences.

In response to strong student demand, the Department of Public Health Services is proposing a Minor in Public Health Sciences. The stated educational objectives of the minor is "to prepare undergraduate students for study in the field of public health. That is, to obtain a broader understanding of public health knowledge, concepts and skills, thus to encourage and promote public health (graduate?) study at UC Davis." In reviewing the documents, we regarded the word 'graduate' here as an error (Page 1 of proposal).

In December 2015, the proposal was reviewed by UGC with a request that the proposal utilize the new draft UGC guidelines for new minors. The new proposal now follows the draft format and includes the required comments and support from impacted minors and majors on campus. With the exception of the Nutrition in Public Health Option in Nutrition Science and the Global Disease Biology undergraduate major, the proposed new minor is not expected to unduly affect other majors and minors on campus. The potential impact on the Nutrition in Public Health Option in Nutrition Science and the Global Disease Biology has been addressed and reviewed by the chairs of the respective departments and has received their clear support.

Graduate Councils evaluation is that the development of the new minor is well justified and appropriate and should generate additional TA and mentorship opportunities with possible benefits to graduate programs and no unique negative impacts.

Not specific to this particular proposal, Graduate Council, urges that as new undergraduate programs are developed, it will be ensured that the increased demand on faculty time for teaching will not be met by reducing graduate student course offerings.

# Planning & Budget

January 8, 2017 12:28 PM

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed and discussed the proposal for a Minor in Public Health Sciences. CPB agrees that the overall idea for the new minor is a good one and that the program responds to an important societal needs. However, the source of the funding for this this new minor is not clear. CPB is concerned about the large numbers of clinical faculty listed in support of the minor. Their role in teaching is also not clear in the proposal. The minor also lists at two lower division courses in the minor -- STA 13 and CHI 40. Is this standard? ECS 124 is included in the minor but we don't see a rationale for why bioinformatics is included in a public health minor: as described, this course is quite different from medical informatics. It is also not clear whether other departments were consulted, especially those who will be delivering part of the curriculum. The committee in charge includes two people with staff titles. While staff often are central to the function of an undergrad program, this seems not in line with oversight of the curriculum by Senate members and other academic appointees.

With the proliferation of interests of professional schools on delivering instruction to undergraduates, CPB feels it is imperative to make clear that the motivation is educational quality and not to bring in extra money. As such, CPB believes that the professional schools need to show that they are not trying to generate SCH by creating an academic program to increase revenue. As such we should carefully review how ladder faculty teach in the professional schools in programs such as this. This must also be considered in the context of the expectations on teaching load within their department and/or college. What are the undergraduate teaching expectations? How are they implementing teaching to make sure faculty contribute to delivering the curriculum and how are they distributing the load of undergraduate teaching equitably among ladder rank faculty? In summary, if the professional schools want to deliver undergraduate minors and majors, they need to have policies that show the expectations of faculty in contributing to the undergraduate teaching mission.

# **Undergraduate Council**

**January 24, 2017 1:10 PM**

*Response continued on next 2 pages.*

January 20, 2017

Memorandum:

To: Rachael Goodhue  
Chair, Academic Senate, UC Davis

From: Ed Caswell-Chen  
Chair, Undergraduate Council

Re: UGC response to RFC on proposed minor in Public Health Sciences

At its meetings on January 6 and January 20, 2017, the Undergraduate Council discussed the proposal for a minor in Public Health Sciences. The UGC offers its support and endorsement of the proposed minor.

The UGC reviewed the proposal for the minor and found it helpful that the proposers had (in this revision of a prior proposal) provided the expected documentation for proposals of new majors and minors. The UGC found the proposal documentation clear, complete and well considered. There was only a single concern expressed by UGC regarding the documentation, and that was regarding the Department of Public Health faculty vote on the minor, but the Chair of the Department clarified the vote upon UGC request and that response eliminated the UGC concerns in that regard.

The UGC discussion ultimately led to the conclusion that the proposed minor is well developed and will be successful with UC Davis students. Further, the minor will be suitable to and will enhance a number of majors. The UGC was pleased that the proposed minor is clearly endorsed by the School of Medicine FEC, The Chair and the faculty of the Department of Public Health Sciences, the Director of the (popular) Global Disease Biology major, and the Chair of the Department of Nutrition.

In summary, the UGC believes that the minor will be a successful and valuable addition to undergraduate education on campus.