

To: John Meyer  
From: Marc Schenker and Richard Jackson  
Date: June 21, 2006  
Re: Prospectus for a School of Public Health at UC Davis

## PROSPECTUS

Purpose: The purpose of this Prospectus is to provide you with a concise statement regarding the prospects for a School of Public Health at UC Davis.

Background: The University is undertaking a comprehensive review of Health Sciences Education at all campuses at this time. Included among the areas being assessed is public health workforce training. In June 2005, the Universitywide Health Sciences Committee issued its full report titled "Health Sciences Education: Workforce Needs and Enrollment Planning".

The findings of this report include:

- (1) California's public health workforce is insufficient and needs are growing.
- (2) Public health education is a primary means to strengthen the public health workforce.
- (3) California's population is increasingly diverse and its needs are not being met.
- (4) UC and public health agencies are in a position to provide mutual assistance.
- (5) Alumni databases for UC Schools of Public Health are inadequate.

Recommendations included:

- (1) Increase masters' level enrollment
- (2) Broaden the variety of degree offerings
- (3) Expand undergraduate programs in public health
- (4) Examine options for distance learning, executive education, and continuing education
- (5) Diversify the student and faculty bodies and recruit students from those communities most affected by health disparities
- (6) Incorporate cultural competency training
- (7) Increase emphasis on public health practice
- (8) Expand relationships between UC schools and local and regional public health organizations.
- (9) Improve alumni tracking and information

As a follow up to the June 2005 report from the Universitywide Health Sciences Committee on health sciences education needs, an Advisory Council on Future Growth in the Health Professions, co-chaired by Acting Provost Rory Hume and Regent Sherry Lansing was appointed by the President. Composed of senior campus administrators, Regents, and faculty, the Council is charged with providing guidance on the development and implementation of an enrollment plan for UC health sciences

schools through the year 2020. A report from the Council, and the proposed enrollment plan, will be presented to The Regents at their September 2006 meeting.

Introduction: In August 2005, Provost Virginia Hinshaw established the UC Davis School of Public Health Planning Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Marc Schenker (UCD School of Medicine, Department of Public Health Sciences) and Dr. Richard Jackson (Former State Public Health Officer, currently at UC Berkeley School of Public Health) to explore the need and feasibility of establishing a School of Public Health at the University of California, Davis. (See Attachment #1) The Committee established “Working Groups” to focus on specific issues relevant to the development of a School of Public Health.

The School of Public Health Planning Committee has met several times both as a whole and numerous times in the various Working Groups. Working Groups were created to cover five core planning areas including Mission; Curriculum & Student Issues; Organizational Structure & Governance; Development & External Relations; and Resources. In this Prospectus, we will summarize the recommendations of the Working Groups as presented to the School of Public Health Planning Committee at its May 30, 2006 strategic planning retreat.

A School of Public Health at UC Davis: The School of Public Health Planning Committee has determined that a School of Public Health is feasible and desirable at UC Davis. The Working Groups of the School of Public Health Planning Committee have produced preliminary reports on five core areas of consideration in developing a School of Public Health at UC Davis. These core areas are:

1. Mission and Strategy
2. Curricular and Student Issues
3. Organizational Structure and Governance
4. Development and External Relations
5. Resources

Key points derived from the most recent reports of each Working Group follow:

### **1. Mission and Strategy**

Key points:

- A School of Public Health at UC Davis will strive to reduce the burden of acute and chronic illness and to avert and manage health threats for people in the region, state and world.
- The draft mission statement speaks to enhancing opportunities for a more healthful life for all Californians.
- The school will be able to make a special contribution to the needs of people living in rural California and the Central Valley due to its proximity to those areas.

- The UCD approach will be collaborative across the University by drawing upon a unique collection of UCD strengths relevant to public health e.g. veterinary medicine, the School of Medicine as well as programs in nutrition, environmental science and others.
- The UCD approach will be collaborative outside the University by building on and enhancing our partnerships with the California State Department of Health Services as well as local health departments.
- The School of Public Health philosophy will be completely in concert with UCD's emphasis on learning, discovery, and engagement.

## **2. Curricular and Student Issues**

Key points:

- The School of Public Health will be structured so as to achieve accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health.
- *At the time of opening*, the UCD School of Public Health will offer an undergraduate minor in Public Health along with the Masters in Public Health degree in each of the five core public health disciplines (epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health sciences, health services administration, and social & behavioral sciences). Doctoral (PhD) degrees in epidemiology, biostatistics, and environmental health sciences (toxicology) will be offered.
- *Within five years*, the UCD School of Public Health will offer a “vertically integrated” set of degrees ranging from an undergraduate major and minor in public health, through the complete range of Masters degrees and numerous Doctoral offerings in both the core and other disciplines of public health.
- The School of Public Health will also offer strong programs for working professionals on site and via distance-learning modalities.
- Ample student support of a variety of types ranging from financial aid to mentoring programs to job placement will be a hallmark of the UCD School of Public Health in order to attract a talented and diverse student body.
- The UCD School of Public Health will offer numerous joint degrees with its internal educational partners including the schools of Education, Engineering, Law, Management, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine and other campus units as appropriate.
- External educational partnerships will be developed for the purpose of meeting the needs of public health professionals in the region.

## **3. Organizational Structure and Governance**

Key points:

- In accordance with accreditation requirements, the School of Public Health must be a stand-alone, independent unit within the University, reporting directly to the Provost.

- The School is organized so as to emphasize faculty curricular and research expertise, to promote administrative operational efficiency, and to provide an optimal educational environment.
- School faculty are organized into one or more of 5 academic groups, which combine the best structural and functional features of the traditional department and graduate group. Faculty affiliations to academic group(s) are based on research interests within the 5 core areas of public health.
- The administration is led by a Dean, three associate Deans, and three assistant Deans. These deans will all be part time appointments (approximately 50%) except for the Dean of the School whose administrative position will be full time.
- A Dean's Council will be composed of a set of assistant and associate deans who will provide review and guidance to the Dean.
- Faculty governance is through the Faculty Executive Committee (EC) as an arm of the Divisional Academic Senate.
- Finally, with appropriate administrative oversight, the school's faculty is responsible for organizing, determining, and delivering the curriculum to enrolled students.

#### **4. Development and External Relations**

Key points:

- At schools of public health across the United States, the development and external relations functions have taken on new importance as both public and private universities seize opportunities for securing external funds for the university.
- The "development function" must be in place at the beginning of the School of Public Health and sufficiently staffed to yield significant returns to support the research, teaching, and service functions of the school.
- The Inaugural Dean will have significant development responsibilities and will need to be assisted by a professional staff including a Director of Development, Director of Communications, Director of Alumni Relations and Director of External Relations to be successful in the development realm.
- The School of Public Health will have its own Advisory Council and a separate Alumni Board.
- An "academic department of health model" will be utilized to cement a strong relationship with the California Department of Health Services, county health departments and the eventual California State Department of Public Health. The purpose of the academic department of health model is to facilitate academic/practitioner linkages in public health practice, research, training, and workforce development.
- While the School of Public Health will have its own development and external relations staff, it will work closely with the campus' development and external relations departments for mutual benefit.

## 5. Resources

Key points:

- Meeting the resource needs of a School of Public Health is central to the development of a vibrant, high quality school which represents well both the UC Davis campus and the University itself.
- The School of Public Health will receive University resources, such as faculty FTEs and operational funds, from the Office of the President. The faculty FTEs will be new FTEs created for this school.
- To enhance viability, the School of Public Health will need to grow to 50 full time faculty members within 3 years of opening.
- Upon opening, the School of Public Health will expect enrollment of 100 doctoral students, 150 MPH students, and 20 undergraduate minors. The third enrolling class will supply the State of California with 100 doctoral graduates, close to 300 MPH graduates and 120 people with undergraduate majors and minors in public health.
- It is expected that the School of Public Health will continue to grow over time to match the size of the more successful schools of public health at the comparable major public universities in the United States which have over 100 faculty members.

Conclusion: A School of Public Health at UC Davis will be of great benefit to UC Davis, to the University of California and to the citizens of California as well as people elsewhere. The University has a marvelous opportunity to make a major contribution in learning, discovery, and engagement in public health for the benefit of people in the region, in the state, and for the rest of the world. Given the external events affecting the people we need to serve and the University where we dedicate our careers, the timing is perfect to move forward on this proposal.

Attachment #1: Membership in the School of Public Health Planning Committee

Attachment #2: Enrollment Model for School of Public Health at UC Davis

Attachment #3: Mission Statement for a School of Public Health at UC Davis