

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS  
MEETING OF THE  
EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE  
January 31, 2003**

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, January 31, 2003

11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Board Room, The Rotunda

Committee Members:

T. Keister Greer, Chair	Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
Elsie Goodwyn Holland	Elizabeth A. Twohy
H. Timothy Lovelace, Jr.	E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
Don R. Pippin	John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

AGENDA

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* For consideration in Executive Session	

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: January 31, 2003

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: I. New Degree Program: Master of Public Health (MPH), The College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

BACKGROUND: The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences proposes to establish the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree.

The MPH is a professional degree that typically provides health care and other professionals with an understanding of the public health sciences, population-based research, and the community practice of public health, as well as knowledge and skills that can be used in health care policy and management. Graduates are generally prepared for roles in a variety of public and regulatory agencies, such as federal, state and local health departments, in profit and not-for-profit health private agencies, and in health services research. The College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences proposes to establish an MPH degree that will (a) offer the core curriculum and practical experiences required for national accreditation and (b) feature tracks public health law and ethics, which are highly ranked at the University. The two existing MPH programs in the Commonwealth (at Virginia Commonwealth University and Old Dominion University) provide public health education geared to general community public health practice and, thus, offer tracks in different concentrations. The new degree at the University will educate professionals to assume leadership roles for the state and nation in which they address the legal and ethical dimensions of public health.

DISCUSSION: The proposed Master of Public Health degree will be developed as a "spin-off" from the public health track in the existing Master's in Health Evaluation Sciences (HES) that is currently offered through the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and administered by the Department of Health Evaluation Sciences in the School of Medicine. The HES program is an academically rigorous course of study within a prescribed curriculum based on the fundamentals of epidemiology, biostatistics, statistical computing, and data management.

The fiscal impact of the new MPH degree is minimal. Many of the basic courses required for the MPH are the same as the courses required for the existing HES degree, and other courses needed for the MPH degree are offered already in the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Law, and Architecture, as well as in the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Further, there are no additional requirements for faculty, equipment, or space. The only anticipated cost is a modest amount of funds, which will be committed by the School of Medicine, associated with refining selected modules of an existing course. It is anticipated that this degree will be approved readily by the State Council of Higher Education because it uses existing courses and faculty, does not require additional state funding, and is not duplicative of similar programs in the Commonwealth.

The Arts and Sciences faculty approved the proposal in November. The Faculty Senate approved the degree in early December.

All new degrees must be approved by the Board before they can be forwarded to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for its approval.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Educational Policy Committee and by the Board of Visitors

APPROVAL TO OFFER A NEW GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM: MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) IN THE COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

RESOLVED that, subject to approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Master of Public Health (MPH) be established in the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROJECT/PROPOSED BOARD OF VISITORS ACTION: Approve the creation of the Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree.

DESCRIPTION: As noted in the Resolution, this proposal would create a self-described "spin off" program from the current masters degree in Health Evaluation Sciences. The implementation plan specifies repackaging existing courses and resources available in the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Law, Architecture and the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Enrollment levels would remain approximately at current levels, thus negating the need, at least initially, of hiring additional faculty. The proposed MPH program will offer in-depth coursework and analysis in tracks not available at the other two programs in the Commonwealth and, thus, is not duplicative. The program will be offered through the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

FISCAL IMPACT: The implementation plan envisions utilizing existing financial, personnel and physical resources to the extent possible; however, this program will require a modest investment of \$14,000 annually -- \$5,000 for incremental OTPS and \$9,000 for additional compensation to the participating faculty. The School of Medicine has offered a reallocation of its internal funds to pay for these costs. No additional funding from the Commonwealth is required. If enrollment levels continue as planned, then this proposal enjoys financial self-sufficiency. If enrollment increases significantly, then, of course, additional faculty and other resources will need to be obtained along with the requisite funding.

CONCLUSION: The Board of Visitors should approve the creation of the Masters in Public Health degree.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BOARD ACTION:

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Leonard W. Sandridge  
January 31, 2003

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BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: January 31, 2003

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: II.A. Vice President's Remarks

ACTION REQUIRED: None

DISCUSSION: The Vice President and Provost will use this portion of the Educational Policy Committee to inform the Committee of recent events of which the Board should be made aware.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: January 31, 2003

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: II. B. Faculty Senate

ACTION REQUIRED: None

DISCUSSION: The Vice President and Provost will introduce the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Mr. Michael J. Smith, Associate Professor of Politics, who will give a report to the Board on the Senate's accomplishments during the Fall semester.