September 2, 2009

TO: John Huntington, Chair
                Senate Committee on Educational Policy

FROM: Midge Grosch, Director
                Programs and Academic Assessment

I am submitting for the *information* of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy the attached ***Proposal to Establish an Online Version of the Existing Master of Public Health, Concentration in Health Policy and Administration (Professional Enhancement Program, PEP).***

The proposal was approved by the Executive Committee in the School of Public Health on April 6, 2009.

Title:	*Proposal to Establish an Online Version of the Existing Master of Public Health (MPH), Concentration in Health Policy and Administration (HPA) - Professional Enhancement Program) - PEP*
Sponsor:	*Health Policy and Administration Division* *School of Public Health*
Description:	We are proposing to provide an opportunity for PEP Master of Public Health students in the Health Policy and Administration Concentration to take the program largely, or entirely online. This program will have exactly the same admission and degree requirements as the current Master of Public Health PEP Concentration in HPA, but all of the required, core coursework is offered online. The proposed online program meets or exceeds the university standard of at least 75 percent of program credit hours being provided online. Note that the face to face version of the Master of Public Health Concentration in HPA (PEP) will continue to be offered. The PEP MPH is open to existing public health professionals with at least three years of experience in public health programs. It is also available to applicants with existing graduate degrees in a relevant field. Because the backgrounds of our PEP students vary so widely, the HPA faculty has decided that it would be unwise to specify an inflexible curriculum that all such students should take. Each PEP student takes the Core Courses in the School, plus an "Enrichment Curriculum" of at least 19 credit hours designed (by them and their advisor, with the approval of the Division Director) to meet their specific career objectives. In order to maintain focus, at least half of the Enrichment Curriculum must be taken within HPA. As with all MPH programs, a practicum is required unless waived. In all cases, the student must complete a minimum of 42 hours. HPA has used Course Evaluation Questionnaires, Exit Interviews and peer evaluation as its main tools for evaluating teaching and curricula. We have successfully applied these tools to online education through our eight year experience with the online MPH program in Public Health Informatics. Student evaluations of that curriculum have been very positive.

	PEP Required coursework	Semester hours	
	SPH Core Courses (see course list in Appendix B)	19	
	Practicum (IPHS 650)	3	
	Capstone (IPHS 698)	1	
	Additional coursework, half of which must be in HPA (see HPA courses offered online in Appendix A)	19	
	Total	42 (minimum)	

Justification:	There has been a steady increase in the number of applicants to the HPA comprehensive MPH program. However, we have found that the number of applicants to the PEP program is limited to the population of public health professionals who meet our requirements, who are in Chicago or are willing to move here, and who can take time off of work to attend classes at the School. There is a large pool of potential applicants who can not leave their careers or who can not move to Chicago, but who would be excellent students. Across the country, there is a growing acceptance of online MPH programs.
	The online PEP program will reach out to currently employed public health professionals who would like an MPH with a focus within Health Policy and Administration, but who can not leave their jobs to physically attend school. Since this extension of our PEP program will be entirely online, the breadth of the audience is certainly national, and could be international. This would be a natural follow-up for students who complete our Public Health Management Campus Certificate or our Emergency Management and Continuity Planning Campus Certificate.
	HPA offered its first online courses eleven years ago. It has been offering an entirely online MPH in Public Health Informatics for eight years to students from around the US and the world. We also offer three online campus certificates. All of HPA's online educational efforts are supported by the Office of External Education. They assist the Division with marketing, registration, instructional design, learning management software, and other hardware and software matters. HPA also has a full-time Manager of Online Programs who has an MPH.

Catalog Statement:	There are no proposed changes to the catalog statement except a notation that the HPA PEP program is available in a completely online format.
Minority Impact Statement:	The online version of our PEP MPH will have no detrimental effects on our minority student population. It might have a positive effect in numbers of minorities, as the pool for such candidates will increase, but it is too early to predict that.
Budgetary and Staff Implications:	There are no immediate direct costs or faculty implications as current resources and courses will be used to serve these additional students. As the program scales up, we will be prepared to hire additional instructors to teach additional online course sections and additional academic support staff if needed. On the revenue side, we anticipate that the increased revenue from the portion of the e-tuition that is returned to the academic unit will be sufficient to scale up the program and reimburse other academic units for increased enrollments in their courses.
Library Resource Implications:	*None.*
Space Implications:	*None.*
Unit (e.g. department) approval date: *College (educational policy committee, faculty) approval dates:*	February 10, 2009 HPA Educational Policy Committee February 16, 2009 HPA Faculty March 16, 2009 SPH Committee on Educational Programs April 6, 2009 SPH Executive Committee
Contact Person:	Jack Zwanziger, PhD Professor and Director Health Policy and Administration jzwanzig@uic.edu 6-1062
Proposed Effective Date:	Fall 2010

Learning Objectives: In addition to the school-wide learning objectives, for students pursuing the MPH degree in Health Policy and Administration, the following objectives apply:

The curriculum addresses competencies in (1) public health law and policy, (2) public health administration, (3) communications, and (4) public health ethics. At the end of the PHPM Comprehensive Curriculum, graduates will be able to:

1. Communicate a basic understanding of American jurisprudence and its application to public health policies and programs.

2. Describe the processes by which laws and regulations are made and the factors that influence those decisions, (b) analyze a particular state or federal policy making process to identify the determinants of its outcome and (c) demonstrate a theoretical understanding of the forces that have shaped and that continue to shape those processes.

3. Describe basic principles of economics and demonstrate an ability to interpret studies (as opposed to being able to produce such studies), knowing the lexicon of the technologies of economic analysis, and their strengths and weaknesses.

4. Illustrate different policy analytic and program evaluation techniques, again with an emphasis on interpretation, not production.

5. Demonstrate an understanding of the institutions of public health and of the health services system in the United States.

6. Display strong written and oral communication skills, as well as skills in negotiating and in advocacy, an understanding of the importance of community support for public heath programs, an ability to communicate effectively with the community, an understanding of the role of the media in public health policy-making, and an ability to communicate effectively with the media.

7. Identify ethical principles that are involved in public health policy-making and programming.

8. Identify the skills necessary to administer public health programs, such as community assessment, strategic management, budgeting and organizational control, and leadership.

9. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate a public policy problem, and to communicate the results effectively in writing and orally.

10. Put into practice the skills learned in previous course work by engaging in a field experience.

Objectives for Professional Enhancement Program (PEP) Students:

Because the backgrounds of PEP students vary so widely, the faculty has decided that it would be unwise to specify an inflexible curriculum that all such students should take. Instead, each PEP student works with his or her advisor to develop an individualized curriculum.

However, all PEP MPH students in HPA will, at the end of their studies, be able to:

11. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles, practices and theories of public health.

12. Demonstrate an understanding of selected problems in public health administration and public health policy.

13. Apply selected tools to the solution of those problems.

14. Communicate these abilities in writing and orally.

Public Health Management

HPA 400   Principles of Management in Public Health
HPA 444   Strategic Planning and Budgeting (pending)
HPA 445   Organizational Leadership in Public Health (pending)
HPA 446   Public Health Resources Management: Methods, Ethics and Policy (pending)
HPA 460   Introduction to Economics of Health and Healthcare

Public Health Informatics

HPA 465   Health Information and Decision Support Systems
HPA 481   Development of Public Health Surveillance Information Systems
HPA 485   Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health Informatics (pending campus approval)
HPA 563   Web-based Public Health Information Systems
HPA 564   Geographical Information System Application in Public Health
HPA 565   Datamining Applications in Public Health

Emergency Planning and Management

HPA 407   Foundations of Emergency Management and Continuity Programs (pending)
HPA 466   Infrastructure and Resource Protection Planning (pending)
HPA 497   Integrative Project in Emergency Management (pending)

Clinical Research Methods/Clinical Translational Sciences

HPA 472   Clinical Research Methods I
HPA 473   Clinical Research Methods II
HPA 475   Contexts for Clinical Research
HPA 477   Data Collection and Management for Clinical Research
HPA 479   Evaluating Clinical Interventions
HPA 512   Ethics in Clinical Research
HPA 534   Research Design and Grant Writing
HPA 535   Translating Research into Practice

Appendix B
School of Public Health Core Courses Offered Online

EPID 400   Principles of Epidemiology
BSTT 400 Biostatistics I
HPA 400   Princ.Manage. in Public Health
CHSC 400 PH Concepts and Practice 3 sh
EOHS 400 Princ. of Environ. Hlth Sciences 3 sh
CHSC 401 Behav. Sciences in Public Health 3 sh