THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
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To: Senate

From: Academic Policy Committee

Re: **Approval in Principle of the School of Population and Public Health in the Faculty of Medicine**

The Academic Policy Committee has reviewed the Faculty of Medicine's recommendation regarding the creation of a School of Population and Public Health. The proposed School will focus on five broad theme areas with the aim of turning new knowledge concerning the biological, psychological, social, occupational and environmental determinants of health into improved health and quality of life for all. Support from Senate at this time will facilitate the process of consultation with other academic units.

The full proposal is expected be submitted to the Academic Policy Committee and Senate in the upcoming months. As such, the Committee is pleased to recommend that Senate resolve as follows:

"That Senate approve in principle the creation of a School of Population & Public Health in the Faculty of Medicine, with the proviso that a final proposal be considered and approved by Senate by December 2007 that outlines the academic governance and advisory structure of the school, its budgetary and funding implications for the University, and its ability and mandate to offer academic programs."

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Paul Harrison, Chair
Senate Academic Policy Committee

Proposal for the Creation of a UBC School of Population and Public Health

Background

The University of British Columbia and foundational partners in the community are moving to integrate key academic and service units that address the complex, multi-faceted issues of population and public health to form the UBC School of Population and Public Health. The School will collaborate with the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria (UVic), and the 4 regional BC Health Authorities to create a province-wide network that will focus on ensuring rapid deployment of new discoveries to enhance and maintain the health of the population as well as training the next generation of public health practitioners. The School will focus on five broad theme areas with the aim of turning new knowledge concerning the biological, psychological, social, occupational and environmental determinants of health into improved health and quality of life for all. The formation of the School will be contributed to by multiple existing units, thus making it truly interdisciplinary and inter-professional in nature. In addition, we will involve community groups throughout the Province.

By bringing together our outstanding UBC and Health Authority-based community health science professionals, academic researchers and learners, we will create one of the most advanced and integrated Schools of Population and Public Health in the world.

The School will remove barriers to successful interdisciplinary and inter-professional collaboration and will address the isolation of individuals and small research units. By integrating the disparate groups, we will significantly strengthen UBC/Health Authority activities in population and public health and provide higher visibility to these entities. At the same time, the increased cohesion and integration across units will enhance learning and educational opportunities and will further galvanize research and service. The intention is to create new, relevant undergraduate and graduate courses in population and public health, which are focused on local and global challenges and on meeting the growing need for interdisciplinary training of public health practitioners. The BC wide collaboration will enable students and researchers in the School to engage with communities throughout the province, and we envision the ability of students to undertake work experiences in all 6 Health Authorities thus providing exposure to the complex health challenges facing BC. The collaboration with PHSA will be a cornerstone of this provincial collaboration with the BC Cancer Agency and the BC Centre for Disease Control being important integrating units.

Goal: To create a new school of population and public health focused on training the next generation of researchers and practitioners, to generate new knowledge and to rapidly translate it into action to improve and sustain the health of the population.

Divisions/Areas of Emphasis

1. *Social and Life Course Determinants of Health*
2. *Occupational and Environmental Health*
3. *Health Care Services and Systems*
4. *Global Health and Vulnerable Populations*
5. *Public Health, Emerging Threats and Rapid Response*

Strong foundational educational programmes will underpin these areas of emphasis. Many courses are already offered by individual units and would be integrated as appropriate to meet the needs of the expanded mandate. The collective strength of the new School will allow for the creation of exciting new graduate programs. For both cutting-edge research and training, the School will draw on the unique strengths in BC including population health registries, health services and policy research, control of infectious diseases, occupational and environmental health, cancer prevention and screening, aboriginal health research, global health and knowledge translation. The chosen model of a School of Population and Public Health is the result of extensive consultation and is designed to be inclusive of current research and education programmes

throughout UBC and to accommodate the current Royal College residency programme in Community Medicine.

Profile: UBC and its community partners already have a number of outstanding population and public health educational and research programs, but they are disparate and within silos. Divided they are doing well in and of themselves, but united, they will form a world-class School of Population and Public Health that will be unparalleled in the country. As a result, the School will act as a magnet for recruitment of the very best health scientists, practitioners and learners.

Programmatic Growth: The School will capitalize on existing research-based MSc and PhD programs as well as an existing Masters of Health Sciences, Masters of Health Administration and the accredited Royal College Residency program in Community Medicine. As a result of existing programs, many necessary courses are already offered. Drawing on these, a new multi-disciplinary Master of Public Health (MPH) will be created in 2008 to train the next generation of population and public health practitioners in keeping with current strategies developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The MPH offered by the UBC School of Population and Public Health will draw students from all over the world.

Funding: Both the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research have two of their four pillars devoted to precisely the themes of the School. In addition, CIHR has an Institute of Health Services and Policy Research, and an Institute of Population and Public Health. The Public Health Agency of Canada has funds dedicated for training public health professionals. The high visibility of the School will provide new opportunities for private fundraising. The School will enhance UBC's ability to capitalize on funding opportunities by fostering a level of multi-disciplinarity unparalleled in other Canadian settings. It is anticipated that the School will require no further GPOF resources beyond those currently allocated and funds available from graduate program expansion. In the first instance the budget will mostly derive from that of the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology within the Faculty of Medicine. On approval in principal of the SPPH the Faculty of Medicine will move to dissolve the Department and transfer the faculty and staff positions and operational funds to the SPPH. The reporting structure for these members of the SPPH remains to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. In future additional units may choose to join the SPPH at that time discussion will determine whether their reporting structure and funding would be transferred to the SPPH and the Faculty of Medicine.

Prestige: In the era of SARS, West Nile virus, and bird flu, the importance of public health has never been greater or more visible. UBC has already shown itself to be world class in being first to sequence the SARS genome. The School will further enhance UBC's international reputation for leading population and public health research, education and service.

Linkages: The main feature of UBC and British Columbia that makes this concept so much more viable and exciting here than elsewhere in Canada, is the existence of a number of outstanding core partners that are being bridged to form the School. Some of the units and their connection to the School's themes are seen on the following page. The SPPH will interact the College of Health Disciplines with respect to a joint focus on interprofessional education and training with the CHD focussing on undergraduate health professional education and training and the SPPH on graduate and post-graduate research and education. The SPPH will interact with the College of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Faculty of Graduate Studies in the creation of new interdisciplinary graduate courses and graduate degrees. We expect that research and educational programmes offered by individual Faculties and Colleges will benefit from the added reach of the SPPH and the Health Authorities will benefit from the increased numbers of health professionals trained in Public Health and related specialities (community medicine). The initial focus of the SPPH will be the creation of the professional degree programme in Public Health.

Governance:

The governance model for the School of Population and Public Health is depicted on the following page. The School will report to the Provost through the SPPH Decanal Advisory Committee consisting of the Deans who have units involved with the School (e.g. Applied Science, Arts, etc.). The chair of the Decanal Committee will be the Dean of Medicine (note that it is a requirement for accreditation by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada that programs that train specialists in Community Medicine be affiliated with Faculties of Medicine). An Executive Council consisting of the Director, Division Heads, and leaders of key affiliated groups will lead and administer the day to day operations of the School. The Executive Council would be accountable to the SPPH Decanal Advisory Committee.

In the first instance the SPPH faculty will be drawn from existing units at UBC upon agreement of those units and their current host faculties/colleges. Specifically, units currently outside the Faculty of Medicine can choose to retain their current administrative relationships (eg CHSPR in the College of Health Disciplines) and be affiliates of the SPPH or they may choose to move to become full founding members of the SPPH. The faculty members will self associate with one or more of the 5 Divisions within the SPPH and Divisional Leadership will be identified from these individuals.

In addition, to maintain maximal relevance and connectivity to the community, an SPPH External Advisory Committee will be formed. This will involve representatives of key partners and stakeholders (eg. Provincial Health Officer, PHSA, VCH, Public Health Agency of Canada, partner universities, community members etc.). This Advisory Committee will be appointed by the President/Provost in consultation with the Decanal Committee and the Director of the SPPH. The Committee will be advisory to the Decanal Advisory Committee.

Key Partners

Social and Life Course Determinants of Health

Human Early Learning Partnership (UBC/PHSA)
Genomics/Epigenomics/Proteomics (UBC/PHSA)
Food, Nutrition & Health Programme (UBC/PHSA)
Edudata (UBC)

Occupational and Environmental Determinants of Health

BC Centre for Disease Control (UBC/PHSA)

BC Cancer Agency (PHSA/UBC)
Institute of Health Promotion Research (UBC)
School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (UBC)
Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (UBC)
National Collaborating Centre in Environmental Health (UBC/PHSA)
Centre for Coastal Health (Malaspina/UBC)
Centre for Hip Health (UBC/Coastal)
Chair in Cancer Prevention (UBC/PHSA/BCCA)
Chair in Patient Safety (UBC)

Health Care Services and Sytems

Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (UBC)
Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation (UBC/Coastal)
Centre for Applied Health Research and Evaluation (UBC/PHSA)
Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (UBC/Providence)
Centre for Health Care Management (UBC/Fraser Health)

Global Health and Vulnerable Populations

Liu Centre (UBC)
Centre for International Health
Institute of Aboriginal Health (UBC/PHSA)
Institute of Mental Health (UBC/PHSA)
BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (UBC/Coastal/PHSA)
Women's Health Research Institute (UBC/PHSA)
Centre for International Child Health (UBC/PHSA)

Public Health, Emerging Threats and Rapid Response

BC Centre for Disease Control (UBC/PHSA)
Ministry of Health, Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Units
Vaccine Evaluation Centre (UBC/PHSA)
Departments of Microbiology & Immunology, Cellular & Physiological Sciences
BC Genome Centre (UBC/PHSA)

UBC Faculties & Colleges

Host Faculty – Medicine

Arts	Applied Science
Commerce	Dentistry
Education	Land and Food Systens
Pharmaceutical Sciences	
College of Health Disciplines	College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Departments/Schools

Schools:

Audiology and Speech Sciences	Human Kinetics
Nursing	Occupational & Environmental Hygiene
Social Work	

Departments:

Anaethesiology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics	Anthropology
Civil Engineering	Economics
Family Practice	Health Care & Epidemiology
Microbiology and Immunology	Medicine
Occupational Therapy	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Paediatrics	Psychiatry
Psychology	Rehabilitation Sciences
Sociology	Statistics
Surgery	