



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

SPONSOR: Vivek Goel, Vice-President and Provost

CONTACT INFO: 416 978-2122, provost@utoronto.ca

DATE: February 15, 2008 for February 27, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:** Proposal to establish a School of Public Health as an Extra-Departmental Unit A

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Excerpt from the terms of reference for the Planning and Budget Committee:

4.4.1. The Committee advises the Academic Board on the planning and resource implications of plans and proposals to establish, disestablish or significantly restructure academic programs. Those implications might include significant planning and budgetary changes within the division or significant effects on other divisions, the University as a whole and the public.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

In 1925 a School of Hygiene was established at the University of Toronto with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1975 programs from the School were merged with Departments in the Faculty of Medicine to create a Community Health Sector with three Departments of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics, Behavioural Sciences and Health Administration. These first two Departments were combined to create the Department of Public Health Sciences in 1997 and the Department of Health Administration, after a merger with the Clinical Epidemiology Program, became the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation in 1999.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The attached proposal outlines the basis for a recommendation to establish a School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. This follows an extensive planning and consultation both with the internal and external community. The establishment of the School will support the aim of ensuring that academic public health activity at the University is coordinated across participating units; that it is supported so that it can carry out its teaching and scholarship at internationally recognized levels; and to enable opportunities for integration of academic public health with the needs of public health practice at the regional, provincial, national and global level.

The University has a strong foundation for establishing a School of Public Health. The Faculty of Medicine Department of Public Health Sciences has among the largest number of academic public health researchers and public health trainees in Canada. It offers a PhD in three fields: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Social & Behavioural Science; and professional Master's (MHSc) degree training in 4 fields: Community Health & Epidemiology, Health Promotion, Occupational & Environmental Health and Community Nutrition (in partnership with the Department of Nutritional Sciences). It also offers two Royal College Residency Programs in Community Medicine and Occupational Medicine; and an additional, new professional Master's (MScCH) program in 4 fields: Health Practitioner Teacher Education, Family and Community Medicine (in partnership with the Department of Family & Community Medicine), Wound Prevention & Care, and Public Health Nutrition (in partnership with the Department of Nutritional Sciences). The department provides undergraduate education in the Faculties of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Arts and Science. The Faculty of Medicine's Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (HPME) has strengths in the applied field of health policy and practice, clinical epidemiology, decision sciences and in the management sciences. The Faculty of Dentistry is engaged in public health scholarship through research and its Dental Public Health graduate and specialty training programs, the only such programs in Canada. The Faculty of Nursing has a long history of active engagement in public health education and research, collaborating across a wide range of public health related fields. Faculty members from many other academic units from across the University are engaged in public health research and education and it is expected that the School will have links to these in the future.

The proposed School will draw upon and serve to coordinate the multiple themes of public health-oriented research and education across the University and its affiliated research institutes. It will provide a dynamic academic centre within the University to better coordinate its substantial existing strengths, to add the distinctive value of a dedicated academic public health centre and to align with the renewal of public health in Ontario, in Canada and globally. The School will seek accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

The governance and administrative model for the School is outlined in the proposal. It is proposed that the School be established as an Extra-Departmental Unit A (EDU:A)<sup>1</sup>. As such, in addition to having its own budget and authority to administer research grants, it will also have the authority to offer academic programs, enroll students, and make primary faculty appointments. It will develop sufficient autonomy to meet CEPH criteria. The Department of Public Health Sciences will provide the core faculty membership, education and research programs and administrative structure for the School. The Director of the School will report to the Vice-President and Provost or designate.

The proposal has been developed by an ad hoc Executive composed of the Interim Department Chair and academic leaders within the Department of Public Health Sciences as well as the Chair of the Department of Health Policy Management and Evaluation and the Deans of Nursing and Dentistry. The proposal was reviewed and discussed by the Faculty of Nursing Council on February 6, 2008 and was posted online for review by the Faculty of Dentistry Council members on February 15, 2008 in preparation for its next Council meeting. The proposal was extensively reviewed within the Department of Public Health Sciences, by the Faculty of Medicine Dean's Executive and by all department chairs in the Faculty of Medicine. The proposal for the School was approved by the Faculty of Medicine Council on November 8, 2007.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Guidelines for Assessment of Divisional Submissions*, 2005, <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/guide.pdf>  
44102

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

A per the *Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols of Extra-Departmental Units* the School of Public Health is proposed to be established as an EDU:A in having a critical mass of interdisciplinary activities that allows for the unit to engage in the admission of students to a program of graduate or undergraduate study. EDU:A units have primary faculty appointing rights. The proposal speaks to future transitions that will require the approval of governance.

The School will initially commence with the resources dedicated to the Department of Public Health Sciences. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the Director of the School (when appointed) will work with the Vice-President and Provost to secure additional resources through new and expanded programs, arrangements with external agencies and advancement.

The School will be actively involved in outreach programs. Additional sources of funding will be identified as the School developed. All revenues and costs associated with the School will be part of the budget of the Faculty of Medicine and will be subject to the budgetary procedures of that Faculty. The administrative complement of the School will be part of the complement of the Faculty of Medicine, and all administrative staff matters will be dealt with through the Faculty's human resource function.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the School of Public Health be established as an EDU:A teaching and research entity, effective immediately.