

ITEM 126-1011-R0105

**Attachment 4
Program Chair Letters of Support**

Anthropology
Biological Sciences
Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Business
Center for Environmental Health Sciences
Environmental Studies
Occupational Safety and Health – Montana Tech
Psychology
Political Science
Sociology
Social Work



Department of Social Work
Rankin Hall
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-4392
Phone: (406) 243-5543
FAX: (406) 243-5275

September 16, 2004

David Forbes, Dean
School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
340 Skaggs Building
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear Dean Forbes:

The Department of Social Work supports the proposal for the establishment of a Master of Public Health program at The University of Montana. Professor Janet Finn has served on the MPH planning committee, and has kept the faculty apprised of the planning process. The interdisciplinary nature of the program builds on existing strengths and resources campus-wide. The program's emphasis on preparing professionals for addressing health concerns in an increasingly complex rural and global context is important for the state of Montana and beyond. The program's mission, goals, and underlying values are consistent with those of the social work program, and we anticipate opportunities for inter-professional learning and collaboration over time. The centerpiece of the MPH program is distance education, thus responding to the needs of professionals located throughout the state and region. We see opportunities to learn from this delivery model as we build upon our MSW program over time. Moreover, there will be potential for social work/public health student engagement in electives offered by both departments, which will further contribute to collaborative teaching and learning. We have found strong support of our professional program within the School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, and we welcome the MPH program as part of this dynamic professional community.

Sincerely,

John C. Spores, Ph.D.
Acting Chair/Professor



School of Business Administration
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-6808
(406) 243-4831 TT Message: V/5136
FAX: (406) 243-2086

Date: August 31, 2004

To: David Forbes, Dean
School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences

From: Nader H. Shooshtari, Chair *N.H.S.*
Department of Management and Marketing

RE: Master of Public Health Program

This letter is in support of the Master of Public Health Program being proposed at The University of Montana. As you know, this program if in place will benefit Montana and the region by addressing rural and public health issues through a strong interdisciplinary graduate education building on existing programs and resources on our campus. To that end, the Master of Business Administration program in the School of Business provides a number of graduate online classes as well as graduate electives that would complement other offerings for graduate students in the Master of Public Health. In a meeting with Larry White who is helping with coordination of the proposal for Master of Public Health, Dean Gianchetta and I discussed such opportunities for collaboration and would like to offer our assistance should the proposed degree program be approved.

cc: Dean Larry Gianchetta
Clyde Neu, Director of MBA Program



The University of
Montana

Psychology Department
Intra-campus MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 27, 2004
TO: Dean David Forbes, SPAHS
FROM: Nabil Haddad, Chair, Psychology *NH*
RE: Public Health Initiative



I write to express the Department of Psychology's strong commitment to the Public Health Initiative being undertaken at the University of Montana. My colleagues and I have attempted to assist Mr. Larry White in his efforts to investigate the feasibility of starting an academic program of Public Health at the University. Our interest, and our commitment, stem from the fact that public health problems can affect the nation, and the state, very adversely in terms of human costs and budgetary implications. Along with our colleagues in other disciplines, we psychologists, can play a crucial role in educating our students on the etiology and the possible treatments of various public health problems. Many of the nation's severe public health issues, such as school violence, diabetes, addiction and obesity, are central ones for psychological research and treatment.

Our department is the only Psychology Department in the State with Ph.D. level programs in clinical, developmental and animal behavior psychology. We are also the only department in Montana that offers a graduate program in school psychology. Our 23 faculty members hold specialties in a variety of psychological sub disciplines that have an immediate relationship to public health issues. Among other areas, our faculty members have been engaged in research and treatment of public health issues such as obesity, addiction, school environment, diabetes prevention, family violence, physical and developmental disabilities, family functioning and early development. We believe that we do have a lot to contribute to such a program, and we are eager to do so.

Having discussed these possibilities with our faculty, I can assure that our Department would be active in supporting any Public Health program at UM. We can certainly offer coursework that could be central to the program, and I am certain that our research and grant activities could serve to enhance the program and provide the students with a variety of opportunities for research and service. As chair of the department, I pledge my personal commitment to work cooperatively with others involved in the program to support it, and to insure its success. Please do not hesitate to call on me to assist in any way you see fit. Thank you.



Department of Sociology
Social Science Building, Room 333
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-5184
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August 23, 2004

David Forbes, Dean
School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
Skaggs Building 340
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear Dean Forbes:

Earlier this Summer, Larry White approached me in my capacity as Chair of the Department of Sociology. He told me that he had been retained by The University of Montana to explore the possibility of establishing a master's degree program in Public Health at UM. As we spoke, it became clear to me that such a degree would compliment our program in Sociology well. Based on the information that Mr. White has compiled, it appears that there would be substantial interest from students.

I have not yet seen the specific details of the proposed master's in Public Health. Nor have I had the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Sociology Department faculty. Nevertheless, I believe such a degree would be an excellent addition to UM degree offerings. I would like to see this proposal move forward to fruition.


Sincerely,

Daniel P. Doyle, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair



Intra-campus MEMORANDUM

August 27, 2004

TO: David Forbes, Dean, School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
FROM: Jon Tompkins, Chair, Political Science 
RE: Proposed Master of Public Health

I have consulted several times with Larry White about the proposed Master of Public Health program. I find the proposal to be very well thought out and very much needed in the state. I am contacted many times during the course of a year about the need of semi-professional and technical workers to obtain the knowledge and skills they need to rise higher in the administrative ranks. Courses in management skills are particularly important to them. We do everything we can to make such courses available through the Political Science department and would be happy to add public health officials to our class rosters. As Chair of the Political Science Department and Director of the Master of Public Administration program, I would like to voice my support for the proposed degree program in public health.





Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences
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The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-1552
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August 24, 2004

Dave Forbes, Dean
School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear Dean Forbes:

The faculty of the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences would like to express their support for the proposed Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree. This issue was discussed by the health sciences cluster group headed by Rich Bridges and was endorsed across departmental lines. One of our departmental faculty, Liz Putnam, has been serving on the MPH faculty planning committee and another, Curtis Noonan, has volunteered to teach for the program in epidemiology, his area of expertise. Given the proper support, we feel that this is an ideal program to introduce at The University of Montana and that it will mesh well with the graduate programs in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Sincerely,

Vernon R. Grund, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences



The University of
Montana

Environmental Studies Program
Rankin Hall
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<http://www.umt.edu/evst>

September 2, 2004

Dean David Forbes
School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
Skaggs Bldg 340
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear Dean Forbes,

I am writing to express EVST's support for the proposal to initiate a Master's of Public Health program within your School. I am confident the program will provide outstanding and needed training for public health professionals, enabling them to better meet the needs of Montanans. I expect fruitful opportunities for collaborative faculty teaching and research.

Over the last year, EVST Assistant Professor Robin Saha has served on the Public Health Program Development Committee headed by Larry White. Robin has kept me and the EVST faculty apprised of the Committee's work. EVST supports the listing of appropriate EVST courses as MPH electives. Because EVST faculty offer courses and have interests in environment health, I am confident that EVST faculty will also be supportive of cross-listing some of their courses as the MPH program develops. In fact, Robin Saha has been working with Liz Putnam to develop an Environmental and Rural Health course that would be one of the core courses of the new MPH Program. He has expressed interest in co-teaching the class, and I support the "buying out" of his time for that. Robin brings background in environmental health research and policy concerning minority and low-income populations. Other EVST faculty would welcome working with MPH students and having them in their courses, and some of our graduate students would likewise have strong interests in the MPH program.

I not only warmly welcome the creation of the program conceptually, but I also understand the need for and support the development of programmatic ties between EVST and the new MPH program as outlined above. I would be happy to discuss or further explore ways that EVST can assist your School's promising new endeavor.

Sincerely,

Tom Roy
Director, Professor
Environmental Studies Program



The University of
Montana

Intra-campus MEMORANDUM

DATE: 23 August 2004

TO: David Forbes, Dean, School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences

FROM: Erick Greene, Acting Associate Dean of Biological Sciences

RE: Master of Public Health Program

I am pleased to offer the support and endorsement of the Division of Biological Sciences (DBS) for the interdisciplinary MPH program being proposed for The University of Montana. Don Christian, former DBS Associate Dean, was part of the planning committee for this program that Larry White lead during 2003-2004, and Bill Granath, a DBS faculty member, was involved in subsequent discussion and planning. I understand that our contributions to this program will likely involve offering of elective courses in the biology or microbiology of infectious disease or related topics; sharing of faculty expertise; facilitating possible interactions between the MPH program and scientists at the Rocky Mountain laboratories within which we have close ties; and possibly others. A particular strength of the Division is in infectious diseases which could provide unique research opportunities to MPH students.

This proposed program builds on many strengths in science, education, and outreach at The University of Montana, and promises many benefits to the university and the state. We look forward to participating.



Center for Environmental Health Sciences
Andrij Holian, Ph.D., Director
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November 8, 2004

David S. Forbes, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
340 Skaggs Building
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT. 59812

Dear Dean Forbes:

This letter is written in support of the proposed Master of Public Health program. As you are aware, developing an MPH program has been a strong personal interest of mine since my arrival in 2000. There is a strong base of support for this program in Montana and a need in surrounding rural states. In addition, the Center for Environmental Health Sciences has been deeply involved in the public health implications in Libby and the Milltown Dam area as well as throughout the state of Montana on a wide range of projects. Consequently, we are acutely aware of the need for public health professionals in Montana who have the specific training and expertise to deal with the myriad of public health issues arising from occupational and environmental exposures to numerous agents.

The Center looks forward to the opportunity to participate in the proposed MPH program by developing core and elective course offerings and by providing MPH graduate students opportunities to be involved in our research projects.

Sincerely,

Andrij Holian, PhD
Professor and Director



Department of Anthropology
Social Science Building
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-5112
Phone: (406) 243-2693
FAX: (406) 243-4918

November 8, 2004

Dear Dean Forbes:

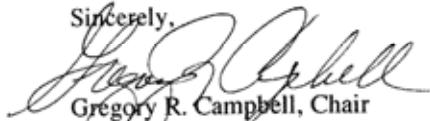
It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to highly endorse the proposal for the interdisciplinary graduate program leading to the Master of Public Health. The School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences (SPAHS) is uniquely qualified to offer an interdisciplinary program that draws on the talents across the campus. SPAHS continues to emerge as a regional and national leader in health research. The Anthropology Department relishes the opportunity to participate in this endeavor.

The Anthropology Department currently has four faculty members that directly do health related research. By training, Professor Gregory R. Campbell is a medical anthropologist that has spent the bulk of his career analyzing Native American health, especially social epidemiology issues. In addition, Dr. Stephen Greymorning also conducts ethnobotanical research among Native Americans. Dr. Kimber Haddix-McKay's demographic and health research extends to Africa and Nepal. Finally, Dr. Ashley McKeown's expertise in skeletal biology will offer another arena of research expertise. Given the academic training, high level of research skills, and health research interests among several anthropology faculty members, we can be valuable contributors to the Master of Public Health program.

Our department currently offers six courses, Culture and Population, Human Variation, Ethnographic Field Methods, Native American Health and Healing, and Human Behavioral Ecology, and Culture, Health and Healing, on a regular basis that contribute toward the interdisciplinary curriculum. We look forward to having these courses fully integrated into the MPH curriculum structure.

The MPH proposal at The University of Montana is timely. It meets the growing need to train health professionals who can confront the complex array of issues surrounding health issues, care, and delivery. Moreover, public health is a growing field not only within the state and region, but also nationally and internationally. In examining the proposal goals, I believe, The University of Montana will become a national center of excellence for training and research in public health. On behalf of the Department of Anthropology, we look forward to participating in the proposed MPH program. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at (406) 243-2478.

Sincerely,



Gregory R. Campbell, Chair
Anthropology

MontanaTech

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Occupational Safety & Health and
Industrial Hygiene Department

August 30, 2004

David S. Forbes, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
340 Skaggs Building
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT. 59812

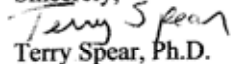
Dear Dr. Forbes,

This purpose of this letter is to communicate our support for the Master of Public Health Program proposal. We feel that our occupational safety and health program will be an asset to and compliment the proposed program electives in public health.

Montana Tech received Board of Regents approval in 1984 to award master of science degrees in Industrial Hygiene. The ABET accredited M.S. Industrial Hygiene program provides a full range of industrial hygiene courses, supporting electives, and a research experience. The first degrees were awarded in 1985. Since that time, 111 masters degrees have been awarded. The program is administered through the Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene (SHIH) Department. The Department is housed within the School of Mines and Engineering. In addition to the M.S. degree, a B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is awarded through this Department.

As of the Fall semester 2002, the industrial hygiene graduate degree is being delivered both online and on campus. This has resulted in a significant increase in graduate student enrollment and demonstrates the interest and need for online occupational and public health education. Through this process, our faculty have developed expertise in online course delivery.

Our department supports the University of Montana's proposed Master of Public Health program. If I can be of any assistance in the future, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Terry Spear, Ph.D.
Head, Safety, Health, and Industrial Hygiene Department
Montana Tech of The University of Montana
1300 West Park Street
Butte, MT 59701