

AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND EXTENSION

January 13, 2004

1. **Adoption of the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research, and Service**

Recommended: That the Board approve the request of Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith to adopt the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research, and Service, effective January 14, 2004.

Abstract: The University System of Georgia Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research, and Service details the logic behind, the steps taken in preparation for, and the elements of this strategic plan and is attached as Appendix I. The strategic plan lays the foundation for how the University System will help meet the public health needs of Georgia citizens in education, research, and service.

Development of the plan was driven by seven considerations, as follows:

- 1) The receipt in fall 2003 of proposals from three System research universities to initiate master of public health ("M.P.H.") programs;
- 2) The need to ensure that existing public health programs at three System state universities prosper;
- 3) The growing awareness that Georgia has significant education, research, and service requirements in public health that are unmet;
- 4) The need to ensure a minimum amount of unnecessary M.P.H. program duplication;
- 5) The Chancellor's intention to position the University System of Georgia to become one of the national leaders in public health education, research, and service;
- 6) The evolving and expanding nature of public health education, research, and education; and
- 7) The willingness of a private source to provide a significant amount of funding to Georgia Southern University to establish a school of public health.

The objective of the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research, and Service is to ensure that the System becomes one of the national leaders in public health education, research, and service. The University System of Georgia Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research, and Service contains four key elements, as follows:

1. **Adoption of the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research, and Service (Continued)**

- 1) The creation of an Administrative Committee on Public Health, which, among other things, will serve as the strategic planning advisory body for public health programs across the System and foster intercollegiate and interdisciplinary cooperation, assistance, and growth, ensuring planning and cooperation so that all six public health programs in the System will prosper in their respective areas of emphasis and responsibilities;
- 2) The maintenance of M.P.H. programs focused primarily on teaching and service at Armstrong Atlantic State University, Fort Valley State University, and Georgia Southern University;
- 3) The creation of M.P.H. programs focused primarily on teaching, research, and service at Georgia State University, the Medical College of Georgia, and the University of Georgia; and
- 4) The continuing requirement that, as with all degree programs, off-campus delivery of programs or the delivery of programs via distance learning require Board of Regents approval.

Items 2 to 5 of the agenda for the Committee on Academic Affairs pertain directly to the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research, and Service.

2. **Establishment of the Master of Public Health, University of Georgia**

Recommended: That the Board approve the request of President Michael F. Adams that the University of Georgia ("UGA") be authorized to establish a Master of Public Health ("M.P.H.") degree, effective January 14, 2004.

Abstract: After discussions with the Medical College of Georgia ("MCG"), UGA's proposed M.P.H. was developed in its Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute. As a result of research and teaching strengths in biomedical and health service disciplines, the degree will be offered as an interdisciplinary collaboration between the established Departments of Environmental Health Science and Health Promotion and Behavior in cooperation with other public health related groups, including Foods and Nutrition, Exercise Science, and the interdisciplinary program in Toxicology and Gerontology.

Need: High incidences of obesity, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke and asthma affect Georgia's populations. Child and maternal health is a concern, as evidenced by infant mortality and low birth weights. The Georgia Cancer Coalition's goal of finding effective strategies to prevent and treat cancer over the next decade is a major undertaking important to the health of Georgia's citizen. An informal survey of 80 master's-level students enrolled in 2001 in selected public health-related majors at UGA indicates that approximately 30% would have enrolled in an M.P.H. program at UGA if it had been available.

Objectives: Primary objectives of the program include 1) creation of an interdisciplinary M.P.H. at a university involved in health research and teaching, 2) provision for an interface between the state's public health programs and UGA, and 3) development of collaborative relationships between UGA, MCG, Georgia State University and other M.P.H. programs.

Curriculum: The 53-semester-hour curriculum will include courses in chemical toxicology, environmental risk assessment, water pollution and human health, and industrial hygiene.

Projected Enrollment: The institution anticipates enrollments of 40, 75, and 100 during the first three years of the program.

Funding: The program will build upon and reconfigure existing courses that are currently offered by the institution in addition to establishing new courses. Faculty who will teach, conduct research, and perform service related to the M.P.H. are already on UGA's faculty in several departments. President Adams has provided reverification that funding for the program is available at the institution.

2. **Establishment of the Master of Public Health, University of Georgia (Continued)**

Assessment: The Office of Academic Affairs will work with the institution to measure the success and continued effectiveness of the proposed program. The program will be reviewed in concert with the institution's programmatic schedule of comprehensive program reviews and the Administrative Committee on Public Health's reports to the Chancellor.

3. Establishment of the Master of Public Health, Georgia State University

Recommended: That the Board approve the request of President Carl V. Patton that Georgia State University ("GSU") be authorized to establish a Master of Public Health ("M.P.H.") degree, effective January 14, 2004.

Abstract: GSU seeks approval to establish an M.P.H. that will meet the applied public health educational and research needs of the Atlanta metropolitan area. GSU's multi-disciplinary, research-based Institute of Public Health draws upon the faculty of all six GSU colleges. Academic and training efforts will emphasize basic prevention sciences (e.g., immunology, virology, bioinformatics, and genomics) as well as applied public health efforts (e.g., chronic disease prevention, health promotion and policy, public health ethics and law, and health communications).

Need: A 1988 study completed by the Institute of Medicine suggests that 20% of the public health workforce has actually received training in public health and that the education and training needs of the current public health workforce are multifaceted. With headquarters for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, the Arthritis Foundation, CARE International, the Carter Center, and The Task Force for Child Survival in Atlanta, demand exists for graduate public health education in an affordable, publicly supported institution in Georgia and to conduct research and provide public health service for Atlantans and other Georgians.

Objectives: The objectives of the proposed M.P.H. degree are 1) to prepare students to use multi-disciplinary skills to address contemporary public health problems, 2) to train students to excel in reducing public health disparities in urban communities, and 3) to advance public health sciences and an understanding of the causes and prevention of disease.

Curriculum: The 39-semester-hour curriculum will include core public health courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, and health services administration. A required practicum will be included as well as a special capstone project.

Projected Enrollment: The institution anticipates enrollments of 30, 60, and 75 for the first three years of the program.

Funding: The program will build upon and reconfigure existing courses that are currently offered by the institution in addition to establishing new courses. Faculty who will teach, conduct research, and perform service related to the M.P.H. are already on GSU's faculty in several departments. President Patton has provided reverification that funding for the program is available at the institution.

3. **Establishment of the Master of Public Health, Georgia State University (Continued)**

Assessment: The Office of Academic Affairs will work with the institution to measure the success and continued effectiveness of the proposed program. The program will be reviewed in concert with the institution's programmatic schedule of comprehensive program reviews and the Administrative Committee on Public Health's reports to the Chancellor.

4. **Establishment of the Master of Public Health With a Major in Health Informatics, Medical College of Georgia**

Recommended: That the Board approve the request of President Daniel W. Rahn that the Medical College of Georgia ("MCG") be authorized to establish a Master of Public Health ("M.P.H.") with a major in Health Informatics, effective January 14, 2004.

Abstract: MCG and the University of Georgia have closely coordinated their efforts to develop M.P.H. programs. UGA's proposed program will produce graduates who can move into the public health component of the state's healthcare system by offering degree specialization in environmental health science and health promotion and behavior. MCG's proposed program will add graduates to the state's healthcare system to manage healthcare organizations and information systems. Typical employment settings include hospitals, health maintenance organizations, clinics, public health departments, and other healthcare related entities.

Need: A compelling need exists to provide healthcare delivery and management programs to reduce morbidity and mortality rates in the United States caused by preventable factors. According to the report Healthy People 2010, approximately 65% to 70% of the morbidity and mortality rates are a consequence of preventable factors. In Georgia, more than 36,000 people each year die from heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

Objectives: The primary objective of the program is the preparation of graduates who will have the requisite skills to improve the health of populations by effectively and efficiently managing health organizations and health information systems.

Curriculum: The 39-semester-hour curriculum plus 9-hour internship are the minimum requirements for the major. At least 28 semester hours will include new courses in such areas as health information systems, data management and analysis, epidemiology, environmental health, and healthcare delivery systems. The program will be offered primarily online and therefore needs to be considered as an external degree program.

Projected Enrollment: The institution anticipates enrollments of 3, 8, and 16 during the first three years of the program.

Funding: The program will build upon existing courses and establish new courses. MCG has sufficient faculty to offer an M.P.H. with a major in Health Informatics. President Rahn has provided reverification that funding for the program is available at the institution.

4. **Establishment of the Master of Public Health With a Major in Health Informatics, Medical College of Georgia (Continued)**

Assessment: The Office of Academic Affairs will work with the institution to measure the success and continued effectiveness of the proposed program. The program will be reviewed in concert with the institution's programmatic schedule of comprehensive program reviews and the Administrative Committee on Public Health's reports to the Chancellor.

5. Establishment of the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health, Georgia Southern University

Recommended: That the Board approve the request of President Bruce Grube that Georgia Southern University ("GSOU") be authorized to establish the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health, effective January 14, 2004.

Abstract of School: GSOU proposes to redesignate the Department of Public Health the School of Public Health, and to name the School the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health. Dr. Karl E. Peace has committed a gift of \$2.5 million to endow student scholarships, faculty support, and faculty scholarship in the school in honor of his wife, Dr. Jiann-Ping Hsu. In addition to the establishment of the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health, in an action that does not require formal Board approval, GSOU will rename the Center for Biostatistics in the School the Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics. Dr. Peace has provided GSOU an additional gift of \$750,000 for this purpose. These two gifts, together with the \$500,000 that Dr. Peace provided to his alma mater to create the Karl E. Peace Professorship of Biostatistics, which was matched by the Eminent Scholars Endowed Trust, means that the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health will begin operations with combined endowments of at least \$4.25 million.

Dr. Peace's gifts will allow the new school to strengthen all programs in the existing department, with special emphasis on course offerings in biostatistics and rural public health. The new school will establish a plan to become an accredited school of public health within five to seven years, assuming Board policies are so modified to permit this. In the absence of such modification, GSOU commits that the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health will work to have all programs within it that may be accredited achieve accreditation within five to seven years.

School Naming: Dr. Jiann-Ping Hsu received her undergraduate degree in Mathematics at the National Taiwan University and her Master of Arts in Mathematical Sciences from Columbia University. She was a research scholar in the School of Public Health at Columbia University from 1970 to 1972, after which she earned her doctorate in biostatistics at the University of California while performing statistical research in long-term healthcare studies. During Dr. Hsu's career, she has held positions at the United States Food and Drug Administration, SmithKlein and French Laboratories, and at the Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Research Division. While serving as Associate Director of Biometrics at Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals, she also served as Section Head of Biometrics at Procter and Gamble Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Hsu's scholarly works include 15 publications and presentations on public health statistical issues.

5. **Establishment of the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health, Georgia Southern University (Continued)**

Philanthropy: Dr. Karl E. Peace is one of the most notable living alumni of GSOU. After graduating from GSOU and earning his Ph.D. at the Medical College of Virginia, Dr. Peace distinguished himself in the field of clinical trials in the pharmaceutical industry. The 1991 Star Alumnus of the Medical College of Virginia and the 1998 Distinguished Alumnus of GSOU, Dr. Peace is the founder and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics*, a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar, Director of the GSOU Center for Biostatistics, and GSOU Professor of Biostatistics. Beyond the gifts detailed above, Dr. Peace has funded the Elsie Mae Cloud Peace Memorial Scholarship, the Karl E. Peace Award for Excellence and Scholarship, and the Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium Scholarship at GSOU.