



January 16, 2020

Dear Members of the Stockton University Academic Programs and Planning Committee and Stockton University Faculty Senate:

I am in strong support of creating a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited Master's in Public Health (MPH) program within the School of Health Sciences. The addition of an accredited MPH program will complement, and potentially broaden, the impact of all of our current health-related programs by making a clear statement that public/population health is integral to overall health care.

The proposal is written to meet CEPH guidelines for an MPH Program and the proposers have proposed a seemingly viable curriculum. There is no apparent conflict with existing graduate programs within the university. For accreditation purposes, the proposed MPH program will be part of an accreditation unit, referred to by CEPH as a Public Health Program (PHP). It is envisioned that the PHP will eventually consist of not only this MPH program, but also the current BS in Public Health program, at which time it too becomes CEPH accredited. The MPH program can become accredited independent of the accreditation status of the BS in Public Health degree.

Need for this program is demonstrated within the proposal. The proposed hybrid delivery format is responsive to trends in higher education and supports attracting students from beyond the immediate geographic area.

Most resources for this proposed program do not currently exist at Stockton. While the program does not involve special equipment or laboratory investment, to meet minimal CEPH accreditation standards, this program will require the allocation of at least 4 new faculty lines and at least one professional staff member to support program development, the CEPH accreditation process, and the launching of the curriculum.

I strongly believe that, in order to move this proposal forward to fruition and set in place a realistic time-line for program implementation, further administrative support is required to develop a feasible and targeted recruitment and enrollment plan and to project true program costs and revenues over time. The services of a consultant experienced in the CEPH accreditation process will also be needed.

Thank you for your careful review of this proposal. I believe that the establishment of a CEPH accredited MPH Program is a needed addition to the School of Health Sciences' program offerings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret M. Slusser", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret M. Slusser, Ph.D., RN
Dean, School of Health Sciences

margaret.slusser@stockton.edu