OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

MEMORANDUM
February 11, 2013

To: Patricia A. Wren, MPH
Associate Professor of Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences

From: Daniel N. Aloi, Ph.D. Daniel N. Aloi
Chair, Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC)

Subject: SBRC Comments – Re: MSPH Proposal Visit with Patricia Wren on 2/11/2013

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the members of the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC) this morning to further review the proposed M.S. in Public Health program (MPH). The group has gained a better understanding of the critical factors that the department considered in developing the budget for the MPH program.

The SBRC is prepared to support the MPH program if the following modifications are made to the program narrative and proforma:

Program Narrative:

The program narrative should state unequivocally that the program design and budget implications are essential to achieve accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), by 2018 or the earliest possible full accreditation date. This declaration we feel is imperative so that the University Senate and Oakland University Board of Trustees fully understand the budgetary commitment the University is making in approving the MPH program, given the CEPH accreditation goal. Based on our discussion this morning, the group was confident in its understanding that the School of Health Sciences has no intention of operating the MPH as an unaccredited program. We therefore feel this clarification is necessary. Ideally this clarification would be included in the Program Mission, Goals and Objectives section of the document.

Program Proforma:

The program proforma should contain a footnote that relates to the Faculty Salaries line, that indicates two existing School of Health Sciences faculty will contribute to teaching classes within the MPH program, at no additional cost to the program. Understanding there are five distinct areas of faculty expertise required to successfully operate the MPH program and that three areas will be addressed by new faculty lines, this clarification helps a reader understand how the MPH program can satisfy the discipline expertise, together with the CEPH requirement of a student-faculty ratio of 10:1 or less.

The SBRC continues to feel that the addition of an incremental administrative staff member is not fully justified. Having a dedicated administrative staff member for a program of this size appears to be compensating for insufficient resources at the entire School level. The SBRC would like you to consider re-budgeting the administrative position to a 50% effort level during years 1 thru 3 followed by an increase to 100% in years 4 and 5.

If you concur with our suggested edits to the narrative and program proforma, we suggest these changes be incorporated into the University Senate documents in advance of Thursday's Senate meeting. If the School of Health Sciences decides not to make revisions, then I may want to make a statement voicing SBRC's concerns.