



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

**Office of the Provost**  
106 Gillis Building  
Lexington, KY 40506-0033  
(859) 257-2911  
Fax: (859) 257-1333  
Email: [provost@email.uky.edu](mailto:provost@email.uky.edu)  
[www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)

March 26, 2004

Dr. Jeffrey B. Dembo, Chair  
University Senate Council  
153 Bowman Hall  
CAMPUS 40506-0059

**MAR 26 2004**

Dear Jeff:

I am writing concerning the feasibility of establishing a College of Public Health. As you know, this proposed unit would be the organizing structure for a number of existing programs at the graduate level, including the MPH and the Dr. P.H. and the Ph.D. in Gerontology. No new degree programs are proposed.

The need to establish a College of Public Health is driven by five important goals:

- The need to improve the health status of Kentucky, which ranks 39<sup>th</sup> among all states on the United Health Foundation's overall health outcomes index;
- The decision to make improved public health a priority of the Commonwealth, expressed both by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and the Fletcher administration;  
The recognition that public health is a national priority in terms of new federal funding streams;
- The opportunity to leverage new resources for the University through funds that are earmarked exclusively for CEPH accredited Colleges of Public Health (nine of UK's benchmarks have such units and two others are developing them);
- The obligation to the more than 150 graduate students currently enrolled in our public health programs to receive degrees from a CEPH accredited public health program.

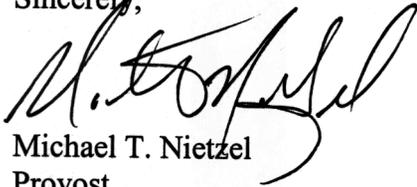
The history of introducing and accrediting public health curricula has been a long one at UK, but within the past year, the need and feasibility of moving the School of Public Health to College status has received extensive scrutiny from faculty as well as by the administration. The faculty directly involved in these programs are convinced of the educational and research benefits of forming the College. The faculty review committees responsible for advising on the College have also endorsed this step.

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I am confident that, from a financial perspective, the College is feasible. The College will consist of a Dean's office, six programs or divisions (biostatistics, epidemiology, health services management, social and behavioral health, preventive medicine and environmental health, and gerontology), along with a number of affiliated research centers and clinics. The required budget of approximately \$6 million dollars is available through a combination of recurring funds, nonrecurring dollars, and clinical income. It will not be necessary to allocate new funds to establish the College, although the College obviously will compete for new dollars in the future (just as the current School of Public Health and the existing units that will join it in the College would have).

The College is administratively feasible and for several important reasons has the administration's strong support. Given the complicated nature of this proposal, I would be happy to attend a Senate Council meeting to answer questions that Council might have. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Nietzel  
Provost

cc: Tom Samuel  
Emery Wilson  
Jeannine Blackwell  
Wendy Baldwin  
Michael Karpf  
Dick Siemer