



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

November 14, 2003

The Graduate School
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Dr. David Watt
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Mn 150 Medical Science Bldg.
CAMPUS 0298

Dear Dr. Watt:

As Dean of the Graduate School, I am the dean responsible for six Graduate Centers, including the Program in Gerontology. As such, I and the College of the Graduate Centers are affected by any relocation of that program.

The Program in Gerontology has carefully weighed the advantages and disadvantages of relocation from the Graduate School to the proposed College of Public Health. For a variety of reasons this seems to be the best location for their program and its faculty. The core faculty has reached this decision unanimously, and has consulted with their staff and students about this change. They have also consulted with me several times.

On November 13, 2003, I convened two committees of the Graduate Centers to consider the impact of this relocation: These committees are my Advisory Committees on Instruction, Service, and Research (Directors of Graduate Studies) and on Budget and Management (the Center Directors). After discussion, the committees recommend that I support this move by Gerontology.

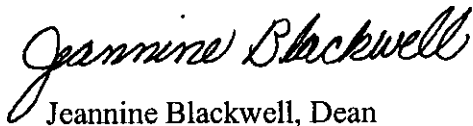
Based on their advice and on consultation with Gerontology, I support this relocation. I support the Program in Gerontology becoming a Center with the power to grant tenure to its own faculty. This move will give Gerontology greater flexibility in planning, recruitment, and independent budgetary action, and thus will make it a more stable and autonomous academic entity. Location in a College with related research and teaching interests will create a positive synergy. Gerontology will not have to relocate physically in order to join Public Health, and the program will not have to sacrifice its current budget nor its status as a university-wide interdisciplinary program. Its doctoral program will remain as currently organized.

There are possible disadvantages to this move. In spite of a well-crafted memorandum of understanding which lays out policy and practice for salary, evaluation, and budget, there is the potential that the core of the College of Public Health will command most new resources and dominate over Gerontology in the future. There is the possibility that the College will not be approved, in which case Gerontology will stay in the Graduate

School. There will be negative impact on the programs from which Gerontology will appoint its tenured faculty, most particularly the Department of Geography in the College of Arts and Sciences.

I wish the Program in Gerontology every success in this endeavor; should things not work out, the Program can always find a home again with the Graduate School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeannine Blackwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jeannine Blackwell, Dean
The Graduate School