Proposal for the

University of Georgia College of Public Health

1. Abstract

Georgia ranks among those states with the highest per capita incidence of premature death, infant mortality, infectious and zoonotic diseases, heart disease, cancer, and substance abuse. A compelling need exists to address these and other health problems, but there is currently no comprehensive public health program within the University System of Georgia to educate professionals to address these health issues and conduct public health related research and outreach. An expedient and resource-efficient means of addressing Georgia's chronic and pervasive health problems is to develop an accredited College of Public Health at the state's land grant university which already has in place many of the most costly resources required for successful creation and operation of such a program. This conclusion is based upon three years of study and planning, including consultation with representatives from the health professional colleges at UGA (the College of Pharmacy and the College of Veterinary Medicine), the Medical College of Georgia, the staff of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, directors of top public health programs elsewhere in the United States, and representatives of the national accreditation bodies. The current document proposes the creation of the University of Georgia College of Public Health (CPH) through reorganization of existing units of the University and outlines how this College will evolve to achieve full accreditation, statewide impact and national stature.

2. Background

The UGA Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute (BHSI) was formally established when the Institute was approved by the University Council and the Board of Regents in 2001. Sponsored by the BHSI, a Master of Public Health degree program was developed by faculty in related fields at UGA, approved by the University Council in December 2002 and approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents in January 2004. The preliminary consulting and planning necessary to produce the current proposal to create a College of Public Health took place concurrently, including significant interaction with the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). The two institutions reached agreement to create a College of Public Health in Athens with complementary and supporting programs located at MCG. The decision was based on the considerable number of existing public health-related programs, faculty, and students already located at UGA and the research infrastructure in place, particularly environmental health laboratories worth approximately $10 million that are required as a core component for accreditation of a comprehensive school or college. The Presidents of both UGA and MCG submitted a joint letter to the USG Chancellor in July 2003 explaining this relationship and the intention to create a new comprehensive school at Athens. Both institutions submitted their complementary Master of Public Health degree programs as a
step toward development of an accredited College of Public Health. The current proposal is now presented for faculty governance consideration and, if successful, submission to the Regents.

3. Objectives of the College of Public Health

(1) To achieve full accreditation and national stature for a comprehensive College of Public Health at UGA in the most resource-efficient, expedient, and strategically appropriate manner in terms of the research, education and outreach needs in public health of the state of Georgia.

(2) To increase the availability of affordable education and training in public health so that more Georgians earn public health degrees in an accredited public university program and more Georgians with public health expertise remain in Georgia;

(3) To develop the necessary institutional mechanisms to assist legislative, executive and agency initiatives to address Georgia's chronic and pervasive health problems through public health education, prevention-oriented health research, and health information public service and outreach impacting all 159 counties of Georgia;

(4) To develop collaborations throughout the University and with related programs at other Georgia universities;

(5) To attract substantially increased federal funding for public health research conducted by scientists at the University of Georgia, the Medical College of Georgia and other University System of Georgia institutions.

These five objectives are discussed in the following five numbered sections.

3.1 Building on Existing Resources

The College will be built upon already substantial resources at UGA. Five core areas are required for accreditation of a school of public health by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The five areas are: environmental health science, health promotion and behavior, health administration, biostatistics, and epidemiology. In two of these five core areas, UGA already has complete departments: the Department of Environmental Health Science in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior in the College of Education. At the time of its formation, these two departments will be moved into the new College.

By far the most expensive core component with respect to physical facilities is environmental health science. This area requires state-of-the-art wet labs to conduct its research. The UGA Department of Environmental Health Science has a 20,000 square-foot building equipped with approximately $10 million worth of laboratory equipment and infrastructure. The program has six faculty, a number of support and administrative
staff, an expanding assortment of funded research contracts and 16 undergraduate and 22 graduate course offerings. The required environmental health component for an accredited college of public health is in place at UGA without the need to develop new and expensive physical and technical resources to support faculty in this area. Moreover, the programs at UGA are already considered on par with programs at highly respected, accredited schools of public health elsewhere in the country.

In a second core area, Health Promotion and Behavior, UGA also has very significant resources. UGA's Department of Health Promotion and Behavior (HPB) has six faculty offering 22 undergraduate and 31 graduate courses in the field. HPB has already established alliances with public health agencies and organizations throughout the state of Georgia and nationally, including the Georgia Division of Public Health, the Georgia Department of Public Safety, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and numerous local health departments.

Other programs of stature in affiliated fields at UGA include the Institute for Behavioral Research, the Institute on Human Development and Disability, the Gerontology Center, the Georgia Center for Obesity and Related Disorders (a collaborative program with the Medical College of Georgia), faculty initiatives in health communication, the Biomedical & Health Sciences Institute, and the Center for Leadership in Education and Applied Research in Mass Destruction Defense (or CLEARMADD which is linked to both CDC and MCG). Close affiliation with MCG's Georgia Prevention Institute will add significant strength to the new College of Public Health at UGA. The University's Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program adds further strength with 25 faculty and over 50 graduate student participants. Food safety research is another public health-related strength of UGA at the Center for Food Safety at Griffin (CAES) and in programs within the College of Veterinary Medicine. The proposed College will greatly benefit from all these activities and it is anticipated that faculty from these and other related units will be affiliated in many ways with the College including participation in joint research proposals, cross-listing of relevant course, adjunct faculty appointments, and interdisciplinary MPH programs.

A new College of Public Health also will benefit directly from and contribute to the activities of two other health-related colleges at UGA. The UGA College of Veterinary Medicine is a national leader in the development of basic biomedical research within a veterinary context. Its strong links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, its growing concentration of faculty conducting infectious disease research and an increasing emphasis on zoonotic diseases offer fertile ground for public health research collaborations. For example, the Veterinary Medicine School’s Southeastern Wildlife Disease Study addresses such zoonotic diseases as West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease, with direct implications in the core public health field of epidemiology. Similarly, the UGA College of Pharmacy has a core of faculty members with expertise and funded research in public health, drug policy, pharmacoconomics, medical information and outcomes research related to drug therapy. Several Pharmacy faculty participate in the Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program and CLEARMADD, two programs that already
contribute to UGA’s stature in public health research. The College of Pharmacy also has full-time faculty members at the Medical College of Georgia involved in funded research projects with close ties to the health research interests of scientists at MCG. It is anticipated that faculty from these existing Colleges will have close affiliations with faculty and programs within the proposed College of Public Health.

In terms of addressing health issues statewide, another very significant asset is UGA’s Public Service and Outreach Program which has faculty and staff in all 159 Georgia counties. In FY2003, Public Service and Outreach provided over two million contact hours of educational programming and technical assistance to nearly 900,000 people throughout the state. In addition to these general resources applicable to public health education and the prevention of disease, the Poverty Initiative and the Latino Initiative are examples of the ability of Public Service and Outreach to focus effort on specific populations.

It is evident that considerable resources, both intellectual and physical, are already in place for a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. The core programs of the College will be greatly expanded and complemented by high-quality, productive programs across campus. The nature of public health is collaborative, and the new College will be strengthened by significant interactions with faculty and programs in most, if not all, of the schools and colleges at UGA.

For a number of budgetary and strategic reasons, UGA has reached an opportune moment to move its Department of Environmental Health Science and its Department of Health Promotion and Behavior into a single public health program. The faculty in these departments will provide the critical mass and expertise around which to build the program. To build the necessary additional core components of health administration, biostatistics, and epidemiology, a Department of Health Administration, Biostatistics and Epidemiology, would be created to allow growth in these other core fields as the institutional and economic climate allows. It is also important to understand that UGA already has one recently approved and eight established degree programs in public health areas that would become programs of the new College:

- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health
- Master of Science in Environmental Health
- Bachelor of Science in Education and Health Promotion and Education
- Master of Education in Health Promotion and Behavior
- Master of Arts in Health Promotion and Behavior
- Doctor of Philosophy in Health Promotion and Behavior
- Master of Science in Toxicology
- Doctor of Philosophy in Toxicology

- Master of Public Health (with current concentrations in Environmental Health Science and in Health Promotion and Behavior).

Environmental Health Science currently has 85 undergraduate and 32 graduate students. Health Promotion and Behavior has 130 undergraduate and 50 graduate students. The
new Master of Public Health degree program will have an estimated 25 entering students for fall 2004 and in its second year will have at least 50 total students. From these programs alone the new College of Public Health would have more than 300 students at its inception.

3.2. Access

Georgians who would prefer to remain in-state to study at an accredited school of public health have one choice in Emory University in Atlanta. The proposed college adds substantially to the opportunity for Georgians to receive an affordable education in public health at a state-supported university.

Another factor involving access is that schools of public health typically have relatively higher minority enrollments than other graduate programs. UGA faculty visited the recently established school of public health in Kentucky which, for example, has 20% African-American enrollment for its MPH program in a state with only an 8% African-American population. The UGA graduate program in Environmental Health Science has 33% total minority enrollment, and 16% of its students are African American. Emory's Rollins School has a minority population approaching 50%. For whatever demographic and career preference reasons, schools of public health create graduate education and career opportunities for populations which are often underrepresented in other fields. Creating the College of Public Health will thus directly contribute to the University of Georgia's strategic commitment to achieving greater diversity at UGA by developing additional high-quality educational opportunities of interest to minority students.

3.3 Addressing the State of Georgia's Health Needs

Georgia ranks among the worst states nationally in terms of the per capita incidence of premature death, infant mortality, maternal mortality in childbirth, infectious disease, heart disease, cancer, substance abuse, obesity and related disorders such as diabetes. According to Healthy People 2010 (U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, January 2000) approximately 65%-70% of the morbidity and mortality rates are a consequence of preventable factors. In Georgia, more than 36,000 people die each year from heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Additionally, minorities are affected disproportionately. The goal of the national strategy of Healthy People 2010 to eliminate health disparities would be a major focus of the new program. The College of Public Health must operate with a statewide mandate in alignment with legislative, executive and agency initiatives to address these problems through public health education, prevention-oriented health research, and health information outreach that will impact every region of Georgia.

The University of Georgia is a natural strategic home for the new college, which would also benefit from UGA’s evolving collaborative engagement with the Medical College of Georgia. Collaboration with MCG adds a direct clinical emphasis and involvement in statewide networks for the training of other types of health professionals. UGA benefits from MCG’s expertise in biostatistics and the Health Informatics focus of its newly
approved MPH. A further goal should be to establish collaborations with other public
institutions in the state to assist in addressing Georgia’s public health problems. An
aspirational model of national prominence for this proposal is the School of Public Health
at the University of California at Berkeley. Though Berkeley does not have a medical
school, its highly successful School of Public Health cooperates closely with the medical
school at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF).

The state of Georgia also has pressing needs to develop public health training programs
related to bioterrorism and mass casualties due to its strategic national prominence both
militarily and because it is the home of the CDC. In this context, UGA’s Environmental
Health Science laboratories are of particular value as are the biosafety laboratories in the
College of Veterinary Medicine. The UGA Toxicology Program adds another key
element that is not available at many existing schools of public health. Additionally,
UGA’s bioterrorism response training (developed in collaboration with the CDC) has
been identified by the American Medical Association as the best of 40 curricular models
submitted by institutions across the nation for homeland security. These efforts would be
advanced significantly by the establishment of the College of Public Health at Athens.

3.4 Inter-Institutional Collaboration

This proposal envisions substantial collaboration with other institutions. Planning for the
College of Public Health has proceeded with close cooperation between UGA and MCG.
This cooperative process arose, in part, from legislative and USG support for closer
collaboration between the two schools. Planning groups for public health were created at
both institutions with overlapping members, and the effort was discussed strategically at
the highest levels of both institutions. Similar cooperation was involved in the
simultaneous development of plans to create a collaborative program in cancer research
in response to the state’s cancer initiative. While it was viewed as preferable to locate a
collaborative cancer center near the clinical resources and patient base of the Medical
College, it was determined that the existing public health faculty, laboratories, research
programs and graduate courses at UGA favored location of a College of Public Health in
Athens. At the same time, creating an affiliated Institute for Public Health in Augusta
will allow the development of a College of Public Health that fully utilizes the resources
and capabilities of the state’s health sciences campus. A long and fruitful partnership
between the public health research and education faculty at Athens and the clinical
faculty at MCG is anticipated, with long-term benefits to students in the program and the
people of Georgia.

It is anticipated that the College of Public Health at UGA would work closely with the
other public health programs in the University System of Georgia. Strengths at Georgia
State University in Health Policy and Management and within their Institute of Public
Health, as well as initiatives at MCG in biostatistics and health informatics, and their
extensive experience with clinical populations are definite assets for the state and for the
proposed College of Public Health.
The University System of Georgia also has MPH degree programs at three of its regional institutions: Armstrong Atlantic, Georgia Southern, and Fort Valley State. Collaborative programs would have positive impacts for these institutions, the new College and the State. A comprehensive, doctoral research-oriented College of Public Health at UGA can provide specialized coursework to the regional institutions and enhanced opportunities for their graduates to continue with advanced degrees.

3.5 Impact on Research Funding and Scholarship

American colleges of public health are research-driven institutions. UGA has a campus-wide culture of research activity, a commitment to serving the needs of Georgians statewide, and a fully developed system for research administration and support. In terms of its rate of increase in federally sponsored research, UGA is one of the leading institutions in the country. According to statistics recently published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, UGA is fourth among all top-100 institutions in terms of its percentage of increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health, which has more than tripled at UGA over the past five years. During the same period, National Science Foundation funding at UGA has more than doubled. However, a high percentage of federal funding for public health research is only available to researchers and health professionals affiliated with an accredited college or school of public health. Faculty at USG research institutions thus experience a competitive disadvantage in seeking such support. Creating the College of Public Health will put UGA researchers and partnering faculty at other Georgia institutions on a level playing field and contribute significantly to the trend of increasing sponsored research funding in the state. The new University of Kentucky School of Public Health, for example, has experienced a tenfold increase in total research funding for its 32 faculty. At every institution visited by the UGA study group (Emory, Berkeley, Kentucky and Texas), the school of public health had the highest per faculty rate of extramural research funding in the university. In addition to improving research funding opportunities, creating the College will foster new collaborations among faculty from related schools and colleges, increase the involvement of underrepresented minorities, diversify course offerings, and provide opportunities for students in other programs to gain access to health-related course content, all while addressing critical public health needs.

4. Governance

The College of Public Health will be a new, independent academic entity reporting directly to the Provost like all other schools and colleges of the university. A dean will ultimately oversee the departments of Environmental Health Science and Health Promotion and Behavior as faculty strength is accumulated in a third department encompassing Health Administration, Biostatistics, and Epidemiology. The dean will be assisted by an Advisory Board comprised of outstanding public health leaders. Faculty who now serve in the existing departments of Environmental Health Science and Health Promotion and Behavior will be transferred to the administrative structure of the new College.
5. Funding

The College of Public Health will be established with funds available to the University of Georgia. Nominal funding in FY 05 for the development of the CPH's academic plan and MPH curriculum has been provided by the Office of the Provost. FY06 program funding will be provided centrally. While it will take support over time to build the program to full strength, it is anticipated that the College of Public Health will generate resources that will continue to fund its development. These revenue sources include graduate differential tuition dollars, contracts and grants, and gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

6. Next Steps

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) made an advisory visit to UGA in March 2004 to discuss the accreditation process. The preliminary feedback about resources in place and the need for a college was positive, and UGA was encouraged to seek accreditation at the earliest possible date. If approval for the new college is received from the University Council and Board of Regents in fall 2004, the program could be put on the agenda for the CEPH national meeting in spring 2005, formally starting the accreditation clock, with provisional accreditation possible as early as spring 2007.

According to this calendar, the new College of Public Health could be formally created in early 2005. The Department of Environmental Health Science and the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior would be moved into the College at this time and an interim dean hired. A search would then begin for the permanent dean.

7. Attachments

A. College of Public Health Proposal Committee
B. Faculty of the Department of Environmental Health Science
C. Faculty of the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior
D. Letters of Support from Departments of Environmental Health Science and Health Promotion and Behavior and Their Respective Deans
E. Memorandum of Support Signed by the Deans
F. Letters of Support
ATTACHMENT A

College of Public Health Proposal Committee
College of Public Health Proposal Committee

Eric Dahl, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Research

Harry Dailey, Ph.D.
Director of Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute
Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Department of Microbiology

Stuart Feldman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute
Professor, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences

Robert Galen, M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Professor
Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy

Laura McCormick, Dr. P.H., M.S.P.H.
Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator, MPH Program

Phillip Williams, Ph.D. Chair
Georgia Power Professor of Environmental Health
Chair of Public Health Division of Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute

Mark Wilson, H.S.D.
Associate Professor and Department Head of Health Promotion and Behavior
ATTACHMENT B

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE
Faculty of the Department of Environmental Health Science

Marsha Black, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator

Jeffrey Fisher, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Head

Erin Lipp, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Luke Naeher, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Daryl E. Rowe, Dr.PH, MPH
Adjunct Professor and
Bio-Safety Officer, Environmental Safety Services

Mary Alice Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Phillip Williams, Ph.D.
Georgia Power Professor of Environmental Health and Graduate Coordinator
ATTACHMENT C

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROMOTION AND BEHAVIOR
Faculty of the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior

David Dejoy, Ph.D.
Professor

David Hayes, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator

Su-I-Hou, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor

Laura McCormick, Dr.P.H., M.S.P.H.
Associate Professor

Pamela Orpinas, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator

Mark Wilson, H.S.D.
Associate Professor and Department Head
ATTACHMENT D

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM DEPARTMENTS
OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE AND
HEALTH PROMOTION AND BEHAVIOR AND
RESPECTIVE DEANS
4 August, 2004

Dr. Arnett Mace
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Administrative Building
University of Georgia
CAMPUS

Dear Provost Mace:

The Department of Environmental Health Science, one of 24 nationally accredited Environmental Health programs, offers its strongest support for the public health initiative and the development of a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. Our faculty voted unanimously (6-0) to support the College of Public Health and will assist in the formation and success of this new College.

The Department of Environmental Health Science is one of two strong programs on campus dedicated to public health and the environment. The faculty in EHS are nationally and internationally known for their extramurally funded research on the human and environmental effects of pathogens, chemicals, and particulates. The faculty have a strong commitment to teaching/training/advising and assisting in internships. We offer Bachelor and Masters of Science in Environmental Health Science, Masters and Ph.D. in Toxicology and most recently, a Masters in Public Health.

We look forward to becoming an integral part of this important program which will ultimately improve the quality of life for Georgians.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Jeff Fisher
Professor and Department Head

CC: Dr. Phil Williams
August 6, 2004

Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Administration Building
Campus

Dear Provost Mace:

This is to confirm my commitment and support to the establishment of a College (School) of Public Health. I understand that this will require the transfer of our Department of Environmental Health Sciences to the new College (School). The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences created this department some years ago. It has been a very successful department from both a teaching and research perspective. However, I clearly understand the rationale for the creation of a College (School) of Public Health at the University of Georgia. In view of that, I support and encourage the University to move to create such a College. We look forward to maintaining close ties and collaborating with the new College (School).

I appreciate the collegial way it is being proposed for the allocation and reallocation of “A” and “B” budget funds in the transfer of the department out of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and into the new College (School) of Public Health.

I support the administration in this proposed action.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gale A. Buchanan
Dean and Director
August 2, 2004

Dr. Arnett Mace  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Administration Building  
University of Georgia  
CAMPUS

Dear Provost Mace:

This letter is to affirm our strong support for the public health initiative and the development of a School of Public Health at the University of Georgia. Our faculty voted unanimously (6-0) to support a School of Public Health and are anxious to work with the University to make it a reality.

As you know, we are clearly one of two programs on campus that can strongly serve the University in this area. We currently have more public health trained faculty than any other program on campus. We offer a Master in Public Health and Doctor of Philosophy in Health Promotion and already have a substantial number of our graduates working in public health positions around the State of Georgia.

We look forward to being a part of this important initiative on campus.

Sincerely,

Mark Wilson  
Department Head

CC: Dr. Phil Williams
June 23, 2004

Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President & Provost
Administration Building
Campus

Dear Provost Mace:

The College of Education supports the transfer of our Department of Health Promotion and Behavior to a School of Public Health. The University’s public health initiative compliments the mission and goals of the College. In recent conversations, the Department of Health Promotion and the Department of Counseling agreed to collaborate on new research and to seek external funds. As such, a School of Public Health will provide more research opportunities for faculty in both departments and will give students a better context for careers in public health.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Louis A. Castenell, Jr.
Dean

LAC/bd
ATTACHMENT E
MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY THE DEANS
August 2, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom It May Concern

RE: Proposal to Establish a College of Public Health

A proposal has been prepared to establish a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. This initiative will provide the foundation for the leadership role of the University of Georgia in research, teaching, and service in public health throughout the State. We are pleased to add our enthusiastic support to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Buchanan
Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

P. George Benson
Dean, Terry College of Business

John F. Crowley
Dean, College of Environment and Design

Richard Porterfield
Dean, School of Forest Resources

John Soloski
Dean, College of Journalism and Mass Communication

Svein Øie
Dean, College of Pharmacy

Nancy Kropl
Interim Dean, School of Social Work

Garnett Stokes
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Louis A. Castenell, Jr.
Dean, College of Education

Sharon Y. Nickols
Dean, College of Family and Consumer Science

Maureen Grasso
Dean, Graduate School

Rebecca White
Interim Dean, School of Law

Thomas P. Lauth
Dean, School of Public and International Affairs

Keith W. Prasse
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
ATTACHMENT F
LETTERS OF SUPPORT
Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
203 Administration Building
Campus -1651

Dear Arnett:

I write to indicate my strong and enthusiastic support for the proposal to create a College of Public Health on this campus. Creating this college will ultimately lead to an accredited program in public health education on this campus. Students who enroll and graduate from our Masters of Public Health program deserve a degree from an accredited program, especially one granted by the state's flagship university.

Creating the college will also lead to other positive outcomes. Health care is an important component of quality of life. The resources devoted to health care have grown rapidly and promise to continue to do so. One great advantage of the new college will be the creation of collaborative research projects with other units throughout the campus. On a national level, the college will make the University of Georgia more competitive in the competition for grants.

The proposal includes other compelling arguments for the college. I hope very much that this faculty driven initiative will be approved.

Sincerely,

Delmer D. Dunn
Regents Professor and
Vice President for Instruction and Associate Provost
July 28, 2004

Dr. Arnett Mace  
Senior Vice President for Academic  
Affairs & Provost  
203 Administration Building  
CAMPUS 1651

Dear Arnett:

I write to express my strong support for the proposal to create a new College of Public Health at UGA. As you are aware, I have participated in this effort on the administrative side at least since the early meetings with the Medical College of Georgia to develop the basis for our inter-institutional collaboration in the field.

The current faculty proposal outlines a number of reasons for creating the College of Public Health at UGA, and I agree with them all. From the perspective of the Office of Research, a very compelling reason is to increase access for UGA faculty to research funding that requires affiliation with an accredited School of Public Health. For example, in FY03 our faculty were not eligible on this basis to compete for approximately $25 million awarded by the CDC for public health and another $20 million for homeland security. Our departments of Environmental Health Science and Health Promotion and Behavior, as well as our Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program are as good as or better than programs in most accredited Schools of Public Health, but currently our faculty in these fields compete for funding at a disadvantage.

I appreciate your efforts in support of the proposal. Please let me know how I can help as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Gordhan L. Patel  
Vice President for Research  
& Associate Provost
August 10, 2004

Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Provost
University of Georgia
Office of the Provost
Administration Building
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Arnett,

I am writing in support of the faculty who are proposing to start a College of Public Health at UGA. In addition to benefiting students and research faculty at the University, the College will have direct benefits for the people of Georgia statewide.

A vital program in public health at UGA will serve as a natural ally to our programs in Public Service and Outreach. We feel that we can contribute significantly to the success of the new College and that it will reciprocally strengthen our capabilities. We currently have faculty and staff in nearly all 159 of the state’s counties. We work with about 900,000 Georgians every year. We believe that a public health emphasis at the University will improve access to public health information available through our service and outreach networks. Similarly, we can assist in research efforts to better understand the public health issues and systems faced by these populations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Art Dunning
Vice President for Public Service and Outreach
August 9, 2004

Dr. Arnett Mace  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost  
203 Administration Bldg.  
CAMPUS 1651

Dear Arnett:

I am writing to express my support for the creation of a new College of Public Health at The University of Georgia. I believe such a college has the potential to greatly increase opportunities for external funding on campus. The areas of focus for the new college would allow for considerable collaboration with faculty in Arts and Sciences, where many of our departments and centers currently conduct research that could blend very nicely with Public Health, ultimately strengthening both colleges.

I am also enthusiastic about the prospects for attracting a diverse group of students to the new college. Greater diversity in a new College of Public Health would likely promote a greater “climate for diversity” at UGA, which would be beneficial in the recruitment of diverse faculty, staff, and students all over campus.

Overall, I believe the entire campus could benefit from a strong, accredited College of Public Health, and I fully support the proposal to create it.

Sincerely,

Garnett S. Stokes, Dean  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
July 30, 2004

Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Administration Building

Dear Provost Mace:

I am writing in support of the proposal to establish the University of Georgia College of Public Health. The veterinarian’s oath pledges “the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.” All state and federal agencies responsible for the public health employ veterinarians. These jobs require post-DVM training in epidemiology, pathology, environmental health and other disciplines. Seventy-five percent of the infectious diseases emerging or re-emerging in our society are transmissible between animals and man. Veterinarians are trained in diagnosis, management and prevention of these diseases. Because of this close association with the core disciplines in public health, veterinary medicine will be strengthened by the establishment of a College of Public Health on our campus. The relationship between the interests, responsibilities and expertise to be developed in the College of Public Health will be complementary and synergistic to that in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

On behalf of the College of Veterinary Medicine, I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal to establish the University of Georgia College of Public Health.

Sincerely,

Keith W. Prasse, DVM, PhD
Dean

KWPlce

Cc: Dr. Phil Williams
August 13, 2004

Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs and Provost
Administration Building
University of Georgia

Dear Dr. Mace:

On behalf of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, I am writing to support the proposal to establish a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. Our College has several areas that can add to the strengths of other units at the University in biomedical sciences and public health. For example, faculty with expertise in nutrition are eager to collaborate with the faculty who will comprise the new College of Public Health, indeed, there are already many collaborative efforts. Faculty in Child and Family Development, Textiles, and Housing address issues that have a public health connection. Families are the context in which many health-related habits and behaviors are developed. They also offer the context in which effective intervention programs can be launched. With our comprehensive mission of research, outreach/public service, and teaching, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences looks forward to the opportunity to work together for the success of this initiative in public health.

The poor health indicators listed in the proposal for the University of Georgia College of Public Health definitely represent a “compelling need” to “educate professionals to address these health issues and conduct public health related research and outreach.” With the strong foundation for a College of Public Health already present at the University of Georgia, creating the College is a logical step towards addressing the state’s many health issues. The careful planning and development of this proposal in consultation with the Medical College of Georgia and Emory University, as well as other entities in the state, provides a sound basis for collaboration beyond the UGA campus.

The University of Georgia and the people of the state will benefit from an accredited College of Public Health; therefore, I support the establishment of this new college.

Sincerely,

Sharon Y. Nickols
Dean

Sharon Y. Nickols
Dean
10 August 2004

Phillip L. Williams, PhD
Georgia Power Professor and Chair
Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute
Division of Public Health
University of Georgia,
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Phil:

I am writing on behalf of the College of Pharmacy to extend my strong support for the proposed College of Public Health. With an increasing understanding of the relationship between environment and health, life choices and disease, the increasing concern with pandemics of new and emerging diseases, and the increasing understanding that one of the major obstacles to progress in health care is not lack of medical progress but rather medical illiteracy and human inactivity, the time for such an initiative could not be better. Public Health is critical for us to effectively manage health care issues both at the macro and micro level.

The College views the development of a College of Public Health as being a significant step forward for the University and one that will complement and enhance our own goals of playing a role in prevention and optimal treatment of individuals and the general public. We see significant synergy for Pharmacy in the development of a College of Public Health, in the educational as well as the research arenas. We have ample opportunities for collaborative research in the toxicology, epidemiology and the pharmacoeconomic areas. We have already identified faculty to help in developing stronger ties between Pharmacy and the Public Health initiative as we believe this will be a win-win situation. The College, therefore, views a College of Public Health both as a positive and critical step for UGA and Georgia and supports the proposal without reservation.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Svein Øie
Dean
August 10, 2004

Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
The University of Georgia
203 Administration Building
CAMPUS

Dear Arnett:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the establishment of a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. The University’s existing strengths in biomedical and health science research provide a strong foundation for a college dedicated to basic research on public health issues, health promotion, and analysis of public health policies.

The School of Public and International Affairs looks forward to future interdisciplinary collaborations with the College of Public Health. The School’s Department of Public Administration and Policy has a strong national reputation in teaching and research in the areas of public management and public policy analysis (3rd in the 2004 U.S. News & World Report ranking of such programs). That department recently hired a new faculty member with health policy interests and a record of funded health policy research. In short, there are likely to be opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations between the new College and our School.

I am pleased to support this initiative.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Lauth
Dean
August 6, 2004

Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Academic Building
CAMPUS

Dear Arnett:

It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that I write this letter of support for the creation of a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. I have lived in eleven states and know the need for, and contribution of, graduates from an accredited School/College of Public Health. Frankly, I was surprised upon coming to Georgia this winter that the University did not have a comprehensive public health degree program.

Needs Unmet

I can not speak to all the reasons and needs for public health graduates in the State of Georgia, but I can speak to several needs associated with the forest products industry, forestry and related natural resources.

First and foremost, nearly all forestry and related activity takes place in rural counties. There is a real need for education and promotion of public health programs associated with forestry activities. In most states, the workman’s compensation rate for logging is second only to that of underground mining, so working in the woods is a dangerous activity. Combine this with the increasing number of Mexican/Americans in the forestry workforce, and the need for support in the area of occupational health and safety is critical. Public Health graduates from UGA can fill that void.

Second, there is a real opportunity and growing need for collaborative research among the College of Veterinary Medicine, the School of Forest Resources and the proposed College of Public Health in the area of zoonotic diseases and the role of wildlife in these diseases. The increasing urbanization of our state lends urgency to this need. Vectors/means of disease spread must be studied.
Finally, in the water resources area, public health outcomes from waterborne diseases, water contamination and water pollution will no doubt increase in this the fourth fastest growing state in the union. Collaboration between the faculty of the School of Forest Resources and faculty of the proposed College of Public Health may very well allow scientists at UGA to remain proactive and avoid any widespread problems for the general public.

Again, please accept my wholehearted support for a College of Public Health. We, the University and the citizens of Georgia need it.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Porterfield
Dean

/gl
August 3, 2004

Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Provost
Room 203
Administration Building
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Mace,

I am writing in support of the proposal to establish a College of Public Health at The University of Georgia. In my view, such a college will benefit not only the University of Georgia generally but the School of Law specifically. Accordingly, I support its creation.

Health law is an area of growing importance and is an area in which the law school seeks to expand its offerings and expertise. As you know, we are currently seeking a new faculty member to teach in this area. It is more difficult for law schools whose universities do not also have a medical school to attract and retain talented faculty in the health law area. To address this concern, we are working to establish a relationship with the Medical College of Georgia, and we are delighted that MCG’s general counsel will be teaching with us this academic year. However, I believe that in addition to enhancing our ties with MCG, having a College of Public Health, with a faculty in health policy and administration, will assist our effort to build a quality program in the health law area.

I also believe that the development of a joint JD/MPH degree will expand the opportunities for law students and will allow us to recruit students we may otherwise lose to other institutions. During recent interviews with students who were applicants for Truman Scholarships, I was struck by the strong interest in the JD/MPH degree. An accredited College of Public Health provides for a broader MPH degree and will assist us in attracting the very best students into this dual program, which I am in favor of establishing.
Simply put, there is great synergy between law and public health, and I am in full support of the development of this new college. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hanner White
Interim Dean
and J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law

RHW: gww
August 4, 2004

Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
And Provost
Administration Building
CAMPUS

Dear Provost Mace:

The purpose of this letter is to express my full support for the creation of a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. The new programs within the proposed college would serve to enhance our academic reputation and assist us in recruiting the very best graduate students to UGA.

From the Graduate School's perspective, a College of Public Health would greatly enhance the program offerings available to Master of Public Health and other graduate degree program students by increasing the scope and depth of courses and content. Additionally, I anticipate that the students pursuing graduate education in public health would fully represent Georgia’s population and support the University of Georgia’s goals for increasing student diversity.

I am pleased to provide this letter of support, and I may be contacted if you would like further discussion.

Sincerely,

Maureen Grasso

MG/rb
August 2, 2004

Dr. Arnett Mace
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
The University of Georgia
CAMPUS

Dear Provost Mace:

This letter serves as support for the proposed School of Public Health at the University of Georgia. The School of Social Work has been involved in conversations about the possibility of establishing a School, and fully supports this initiative. Although initially this new unit would require resources, the potential to add value is great over time.

The School of Social Work would benefit from a School of Public Health on campus. Several of our faculty are doing research in areas that would integrate well in a public health agenda including suicide, mental health service provision, health disparities, and substance abuse. In addition, the opportunity to attract different sources of funding is increased which would tremendously benefit our newer faculty members. Finally, curriculum collaborative possibilities, such as a dual-degree master’s program or co-taught courses, would also provide another way to enrich our degree options on campus.

In summary, the School of Social Work would benefit from a School of Public Health on campus. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this venture.

Sincerely,

Nancy P. Kropf
Interim Dean & Professor
August 17, 2004

Dr. Arnett C. Mace  
Senior VP for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Administration Building

Re: College of Public Health

Dear Arnett:

I have followed the logical development of the proposed new College of Public Health at the University of Georgia and understand it is a timely and strategic assembly of a number of already excellent (but scattered) research, service and degree programs. It also requires the development of a couple of key new academic components so that it will meet accreditation standards. I have supported this development, continue to do so, and have signed the deans’ support petition indicating such.

This letter is written to underscore an additional reason for support. The College of Environment and Design has nearly completed (and will shortly be advancing for approval) a new professional graduate degree program (Masters and PhD) in Environmental Planning. This program will prepare licensed practitioners in physical, urban and environmental planning. Public Health is very closely intertwined with this profession which deals with Urban and Regional Planning, and the presence of both programs at UGA will create a logical synergy which should encourage mutual support and excellence in both areas.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John F. Crowley  
Dean

JFC/dm

cc: Dr. Mary Anne Akers  
    Director, Environmental Planning Program
August 23, 2004

Provost Arnett Mace
Administrative Building
Campus

Dear Arnett:

I am writing to express the Grady College’s strong support for the creation of a College of Public Health at UGA. As you know, Grady has made health communication one of its core areas. Our success in obtaining the Knight Chair in Health and Medical Journalism was, in part, because of UGA’s strong commitment to health-related programs. A College of Public Health will further enhance the university’s strong reputation in this area.

A College of Public Health will have an immediate and long-lasting impact on the state of Georgia. Many of the problems in the Black Belt are related directly to health issues. A College of Public Health will help to develop and implement programs that address the health needs of Georgians living in this area. We cannot adequately address the economic and educational needs of the Black Belt until after we have addressed the health-related problems of the area.

Finally, a College of Public Health will allow Grady and other UGA units to apply for contracts from the Centers for Disease Control. On numerous occasions, people at the CDC have expressed interest in contracting research with the Grady College. However, the CDC can only provide funding to schools of public health.

My colleagues and I in the Grady College would be happy to assist in gaining approval of the College of Public Health.

Sincerely,

John Soloski
Dean

Cc: Professor Phillip L. Williams
    Professor Stuart Feldman
August 5, 2004

Dr. Arnett Mace
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Administration Building
University of Georgia
Campus

Dear Arnett:

I would like to endorse and strongly support the establishment of the new College of Public Health. It is long awaited and timely for the University of Georgia, a land-grant university, to service, support, and educate the citizens of Georgia in public health.

The University of Georgia can make immediate and significant impact on the public health of older Georgians. Between 1980 and 2000, the number of Americans 65 and over grew by more than one third, from 25 million to 35 million. That was double the growth rate for those under 65. In the Southern states, the 65 and over population has grown even faster than in the nation as a whole, and that trend is expected to continue. By 2015, the 65-and-over population of the region is projected to increase by another 40 percent and to go from 13 percent of the total population to 16 percent.

The UGA Gerontology Center is ready and willing to work with the new School of Public Health to make an impact on the health of older Georgians. This can be done with our current collaborations among faculty members from 22 different units across the university as well as through our national and international research and training networks.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Leonard W. Poon
Professor and Director

c.c. Dr. Phil Williams
Arnett C. Mace, Jr., Ph.D.
Office of the Senior Vice President
For Academic Affairs and Provost
203 Administration Building
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Mace:

I am writing in support of the proposal to establish a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. The creation of a College of Public Health has the potential to significantly benefit research efforts at UGA at the same time that it provides substantial benefits to the citizens of Georgia in the form of improved health. I am also impressed by the potential for synergy between ongoing research efforts within the Institute for Behavioral Research (IBR) and a newly created College of Public Health.

Currently within IBR we have significant, extramurally supported research efforts focused on behavioral health, health care delivery, behavioral aspects of chronic health conditions, pain perception, and health communication. We are also playing a leading role in the examination of health care disparities in rural Georgia. Because the primary factors contributing to decreased health and increased morbidity and mortality in the state of Georgia are behavioral, and are likely to be remedied primarily through behavioral interventions, the expertise of researchers within the IBR are likely to be essential to the long term development of the College of Public Health.

The IBR has also incubated a thriving Survey Research Center (SRC) which we have recently moved into the research services branch of the office of the Vice President for Research. This highly accomplished unit has successfully conducted national surveys in a variety of modalities. The Survey Research Center will provide an important element of the infrastructure necessary to support the development of the College of Public Health. Accordingly, it should not be necessary to duplicate the facilities of the Survey Research Center in the College of Public Health, resulting in significant cost savings through utilization of existing resources.

We are also excited about the possibility of a College of Public Health at UGA because this should allow researchers to take better advantage of our proximity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and develop new funding streams for the University of Georgia. At the same time, the new areas of expertise that will be developed within the College of Public Health should allow researchers within IBR to develop new collaborations and expand behavioral research into new domains.
In sum, I would like to strongly endorse the development of a College of Public Health. It is a timely development and one that has the potential to provide an excellent return on a relatively modest initial investment.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven Beach, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Behavioral Research
August 10, 2004

Dr. Arnett Mace, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Provost
Administration Building
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Arnett,

I write to you to express my support for the proposal to establish a College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. As you are aware I have long been a proponent of health-related initiatives at UGA and have always viewed the Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute as an incubator for these programs. Over the past three years while director of the BHSI I have spoken with many faculty about public health issues and have learned that there is very broad support for creation of a new College/School of Public Health.

My personal feelings about this issue are four-fold. First I believe that as a land grant university UGA has an obligation to provide training and research to address issues related to the health of Georgians. Second, I believe that a College of Public Health will provide for greatly enhanced collaborative opportunities with many colleges/schools and faculty at UGA. Third, the presence of an accredited College of Public Health will give the UGA community access of significant new sources of extramural funding. Fourth, Schools of Public Health are historically very attractive to minority students. Given the minority population in Georgia and the health disparities that exist within this group, having a state school of public health would seem to be of critical importance.

While I could easily write pages about the opportunities a College of Public Health will create for the University community, I will end briefly by restating my unequivocal support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Harry A. Dailey
Director and Professor

HAD/lpb
August 9, 2004

Dr. Arnette C. Mace, Jr.
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
University of Georgia
456 E. Broad Street
Athens GA 30602

Dear Dr. Mace:

I am writing to support the intent to create a School of Public Health at the University of Georgia (UGA). Over the last four years, the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and University of Georgia have worked together to enhance collaborations in areas that focus around biomedical and health sciences. These collaborations have been very productive and garnered significant support from the Board of Regents, the Governor and State legislature. As part of this initiative both MCG and UGA have proposed programs in public health. These programs are based on strengths at each institution.

In concert with the University of Georgia’s plan to create a school of public health, the Medical College of Georgia will be creating an institute of public health that will focus on our expertise in the area of population health. The faculty at MCG looks forward to continuing the collaborative arrangements that have been created as well as establishing new collaborations with faculty within the proposed UGA School of Public Health.

In short, the proposed UGA School of Public Health will enhance the already strong relationships that have been established between our institutions and will enhance future collaborative programs. As such, we strongly support its creation.

Sincerely,

Barry D. Goldstein, Ph.D.
Provost