**Report from BLP, Masters in Public Health (CEHHS, SON)**

**September 23, 2014**

The budget and Long Range Planning Committee (BLP) has reviewed the proposed Masters in Public Health (MPH) Program as well as the resource implications of the program’s launch. We thank proposer Denise Boren for her input and assistance as we reviewed the program’s resource implications.

This proposed program was added to CSUSM’s University Academic Master Plan (UAMP) in 2010 to be established as a self-support program. Cost to students is estimated to be approximately $23,292.00. In comparison, a similar program offered on the stateside costs each student approximately $22, 962.00, a difference of $330.00. There has been a community-wide advisory board working since 2006 on this program. Given the nation’s concerns with such health issues as obesity and declining physical fitness among the population, the MPH program is aligned with the university’s Carnegie classification as a “community engaged” university and supports the mission to serve regional needs.

Initially, the program will be housed in the School of Nursing. The program will admit one to two cohorts of 25 each (depending on the applicant pool) in the first year. As per the practice in current EL programs, students who are admitted will pay a guaranteed tuition fee throughout the program.

**Program Demand:**

Stemming directly from a consortium of health care constituents, The MPH Program grew from a CSUSM summit in 2006 that was convened to discuss health related degree needs. An MPH advisory board formed at that time and continues to champion the need for the degree.

In 2009 the California Employment Development Department projected a 17.2% growth between 2006 and 2016 in the Education Services, Healthcare and Social Assistance industry sector. The 42-unit program will be launched and marketed through Extended Learning with tuition fees providing self-support. The program was developed in accordance with the national accrediting institution, Council on Public Health (CPH), standards and requirement. That same report indicated that this type of degree is also a relevant second degree for current health care professionals.

In addition, there are several existing CSUSM undergraduate degrees (Kinesiology, Human Development, Nursing, Biology, Psychology) which would prepare students for this degree.

The program has three options, and will begin with one, the Health Education option, which has been identified as one with the most interest. Other options will be offered when there is sufficient demand.

**Resource Implications:**

*Faculty:*

In order to offer a new graduate program, there must be 5 full time faculty with appropriate terminal degrees. A director will be hired to coordinate the program and be responsible for pursing accreditation. In addition, the COEHHS currently have two tenure line faculty and two full time lecturers with appropriate terminal degrees to fill the requirement. Including the director, there are 5 full time faculty. The EL budget includes salary and benefits for the director and replacement costs for existing faculty.

*Space and Equipment:*

There is a biostatistics course, which will be in UH 270, which is a dedicated computer lab to the School of Nursing. To accommodate the schedules of working professionals, courses will be offered in the evenings. At this time, classroom space in the evenings and on weekends is underutilized, so there is adequate space. Office space for the Director has been identified. Remaining faculty in the program already have office space.

*IITS:*

The IITS report indicates that since the original P form was submitted 3 computer labs on campus have been closed; however the dedicated lab in the SOE seems sufficient with equipment and software needs.

*Staff:*

All staff advising and staff assistance for this program are funded by EL. Staff advising (including transcript reviews) will continue to be handled by EL staff; EL also provides additional staff for the Department on an as-needed basis.

*Library:*

The EL budget provides $10,000.00 per year for subscription costs to support the MPH program. The Human Services ad Psychology Librarian currently supports the Human Development, Kinesiology, and Psychology degree programs and the School of Nursing, and had the appropriate background and expertise necessary to support the MPH. The addition of this program will add workload to some degree. The Library conducts yearly assessments to determine what, if any, additional Library subscription and monograph needs require funding from EL. The assessment should also include workload implications.

*Accreditation related costs:*

The MPH program will pursue national accreditation beginning in 2015. Accreditation is the primary responsibility of the director, whose salary is funded through EL in the self-support model. Costs for the accreditation application fee ($5,200.00) and the accreditation site visit ($4,608.00) are included in the EL budget.