



Academic Senate

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Sang-Hee Lee, Chair

January 11, 2024

To: Dana Simmons, Chair and Lead Proponent, Department of Society, Environment, and Health Equity

From: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair Executive Council 

RE: Proposed Undergraduate Minor in Global and Community Health (GCH)

Dear Dana,

On January 8, 2024 the Academic Senate Executive Council discussed the subject proposal along with the mixed consultative feedback from the Committees on Courses, Educational Policy, Planning & Budget and the CNAS, SOM, and SPP faculty executive committees.

Members of Executive Council, though supportive of inclusion of the proposed program on the Winter Division meeting, agreed that the recommendations and issues raised by committees should be clearly addressed.

Please provide a revised proposal in consideration of all of the review feedback and include responses to the comments and questions in the attached memos as soon as practicable. You may find it helpful to note that in the past, proponents have included a summary document that includes responses as a cover to a revised proposal.

Thank you.

Cc: Wesley Leonard, Chair, CHASS Faculty Executive Committee
Gabrielle Brewer, CHASS Faculty Executive Committee Liaison and Student Affairs Officer



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

December 5, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Ward Beyermann, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

Re: Proposed Minor in Global and Community Health

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the proposed Minor in Global and Community Health at their December 1, 2023 meeting and voted to support the proposal.



December 4, 2023

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Bahram Mobasher, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: Response to Proposed Degree Programs in ENST and GCH Departments

Dear Sang-Hee,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee wants to address several concerns regarding the recent Major and Minor proposals in Environmental Studies and Global and Community Health. It has come to our attention that significant issues require consideration and resolution:

Regrettably, our concerns have not been adequately addressed during the processes underway, and the results are the development of a department that could potentially divert and confuse our students.

It has also come to our attention that there is a proposed change in the department's name from "Sustainability Studies" to "Environmental Sciences." Changing the name from "Sustainability" to "Environmental" may confuse current and future students. Therefore, it is recommended that we act or voice objections against this alteration. It seems reasonable to request reconsideration of the name change. We must collectively ensure that the department's name accurately represents its goals and scope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Mobasher" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bahram Mobasher, Ph.D

Chair, Faculty Executive Committee College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON COURSES

December 6, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

From: James Flegal, Chair
Committee on Courses


Re: Proposed Minor in Global and Community Health

The Committee on Courses reviewed the proposed Minor in Global and Community Health at their November 29, 2023 meeting. The Committee recommends that the department ensure that course proposals for the following courses proposed to be included in the minor's curriculum be entered into CRS in a timely manner as all courses listed in the proposed curriculum do need to receive final approval by the Committee on Courses before the curriculum can be published in the catalog: SEHE 002, SEHE 101, SEHE 101S, SEHE 110, SEHE 11/HIST 111, SEHE 115, SEHE 120, SEHE 160, SEHE 161, SEHE 162, SEHE 170/SOC 183H, SEHE 174, SEHE 181/ANTH 144N, SEHE 182/ANTH 144N; SEHE 185, SEHE 189.

PLANNING AND BUDGET

October 30, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Reza Abbaschian, Chair 
Committee on Planning and Budget

**RE: [Campus Review] New Undergraduate Minor: Minor in Global and
Community Health (GCH)**

At our meeting on October 10, 2023, the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the proposed Minor in Global and Community Health (GCH). CPB supports the proposed minor.

As a general comment for all proposed degree programs: CPB stresses the necessity of having the right amount of Teaching Assistants to support course instructors and ensure the overall success of the program.



December 21, 2023

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: Response to [Campus Review] (Proposal: New Undergraduate Minor) Minor in Global and Community Health (GCH)

Dear Sang-Hee,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed [Campus Review] (Proposal: New Undergraduate Minor) Minor in Global and Community Health (GCH).

The committee agrees with the proposed undergraduate minor and has no further comments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Kaul".

Marcus Kaul, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Richard M. Carpio, Chair
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: [Campus Review] Proposal: New Undergraduate Minor: Minor in Global and
Community Health (GCH)

Date: December 1, 2023

The Faculty Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy reviewed the document “[Campus Review] Proposal: New Undergraduate Minor: Minor in Global and Community Health (GCH).”

Listed below are issues that arose during our review and discussion. Please note that some of these issues are also included in our review of the Global and Community Health B.A. curriculum proposal, but there are additional points listed here that arose in reviewing this minor proposal—i.e. points that may exist in one or more of the other three SEHE major and minor curriculum proposals we also reviewed, but which may have been overlooked at the earlier time we reviewed and submitted our comments for them to Senate (this minor proposal was reviewed at a later date). Overall, each of our memos for the four proposals have similar and distinct comments.

1. Given the stated learning objectives that indicate the importance of students understanding health and environmental issues locally, nationally, and globally, it is crucial for students to have a thorough grounding in natural science to comprehend the interplay between the environment and human health. A significant concern raised with the current curriculum proposal is its apparent lack of foundational science. Without a robust understanding of environmental and health science or human biology, discussing the scientific underpinnings of environmental impacts and health inequities becomes challenging.

It is noteworthy that this curriculum lacks courses in the natural sciences. The present focus seems to be predominantly on the social science and humanities aspects of health issues, without sufficient emphasis on the natural science aspects. Given that global health and community health are two established substantive subareas in public health and medicine that also rely heavily on biological/environmental science knowledge in addition to social science and other disciplines (e.g., education, ethics) in addressing communicable and non-communicable disease threats (in the case of the former,

[transnationally](#)) via population interventions and clinical care approaches, this imbalance could lead to a skewed perspective and training experience among students. Overall, the curriculum could be more effectively designed to integrate both natural sciences and social sciences, providing a comprehensive educational experience. The current structure risks limiting the depth and breadth of education students receive, thereby hindering their ability to fully understand and address complex health problems, particularly in this concerning era of science denialism, politicization of best evidence, and less than optimal data literacy. It also has implications for student preparation in terms of the proposal's stated goal of creating a student pipeline to the eventual MPH program in SOM (p. 6).

2. Page 12: Under item #5, it states, "Teaching will be distributed among core and affiliated faculty. Affiliated faculty will teach elective courses from their home departments." However, the list of 15 affiliated faculty includes:
 - a. Four faculty with no associated courses listed, as they are in:
 - i. Department of Social Medicine, Population, and Public Health (SPPM) in SOM and thus have no undergraduate courses to offer/cross-list (i.e. Mark Wolfson, the SPPM chair, and Ann Cheney)
 - ii. SPP (Cecilia Ayon), which is not affiliated with this program (please see item #3 below);
 - iii. Creative Writing (Allison Hedge Coke), which has no listed cross-listed courses
 - b. Three faculty whose listed courses are not part of this minor curriculum (i.e., Kim Yi Dionne in POSC, Gloria Kim in MCS, and Esra Kurum in STAT—the respective courses listed for them, SEHE 172, MCS 117, STAT 004 are not listed on pages 10-11 as part of this curriculum).
3. Page 17: Under the section header "Chairs' approval to include their courses in the new curriculum (in 2021 or 2023)," SPP Associate Dean Bruce Babcock is listed. The phrasing of this header can be read in more than one way, so, just to be certain, this approval only pertains to the PBPL courses cross-listed with other units that are listed in any of the four SEHE proposed curriculum documents (e.g., ENGR 171/PBPL 171) and not any other PBPL courses. This specificity is indicated in the email exchange between SEHE representative Ellen Reese and SPP Associate Dean Bruce Babcock included in the appendices of SEHE's three other Environmental Studies and Global and Community Health proposed curriculum documents submitted for Senate review at the same time as this minor curriculum.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Carpiano, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Public Policy