

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,



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Professor of Public Policy