January 12, 2007

Farid Chehab, PhD
Chair, Graduate Council
Box 0134

Elizabeth Watkins, PhD
GHS Lead Reviewer, Graduate Council
Box 0850

Re: Proposed Graduate Group in Global Health Sciences and Masters in Science Degree in Global Health Sciences

Dear Drs. Chehab and Watkins:

UCSF Global Health Sciences is pleased to submit this revised proposal to establish a Graduate Group in Global Health Sciences (GGGHS) and a new, unique Masters in Science (MS) Degree Program in Global Health Sciences. We appreciate the care and diligence with which the Graduate Council reviewed our initial proposal, and we have revised this submission with careful attention to the critique provided by the Council.

Specifically, we have added substantial new material on program objectives (emphasizing competency-based learning), further specified the content of the core courses (eliminating any reference to electives), added significant new material on student and program assessment (including the use of a student ePortfolio for self-assessment), clarified prerequisites for admission and requirements for awarding the MS degree, revised our expected schedule for program development, and carefully edited the entire document to assure clarity and consistency.

Specific responses to the Graduate Council critique follow. We look forward to your further review and an opportunity to respond to any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Haile T. Debas, M.D.
Executive Director
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cc: Laurie Kalter, MPA
    Karen Nelson
    Thomas Novotny, M.D.
    Chuck Smukler, MPH
    John Ziegler, M.D.

Attachments: Graduate Group and MS Proposal with Appendices
UCSF Global Health Sciences Response to Graduate Council Critique

Timetable for development and implementation of the program: (Table 1, p. 13)
We have expanded the timeline to more fully present the review process and MS development. This now includes the national search for the Program Director, which is scheduled to begin at the latest July, 2007, and to be finalized no later than November 2007. We understand this is contingent upon the necessary approvals of the program and obtaining funding. We will adjust our start date accordingly if plans are delayed.

Curriculum
- Schedule of courses - this has been clearly delineated in the course table (Table 3, p. 24). The program is now one year, with no electives and no courses required before the start of the Fall quarter. The proposed curriculum has been reorganized to integrate multiple disciplinary perspectives into a single didactic course per quarter (Table 3, p. 24, Section 5, p. 34). All students will follow the same schedule.
- Course requirements - the amount of time required for the courses and expectations of preparation are delineated in the Pedagogy section under Learning Approaches. An average of 25 to 30 hours a week will be spent outside of class for reading, preparation and e-portfolio work (Section 2.3.4.1, p. 25).
- Assessments - methods of assessment have been revised and made more rigorous to reflect the graduate level of study, particularly for a student-driven, professional degree (Sections 2.3.4.2 and 2.3.4.4, p. 25; Table 2, p. 21; Table 3 p. 24).

Nature of the thesis project and length of program
The thesis requirement has been eliminated and the program is now only one year, with no classes required the summer before the Fall quarter (Section 2.6, p. 27). We are now following Plan I of the Graduate Advisor’s Handbook, which requires 36 academic units and a comprehensive examination (Section 2.3.1, p. 20).

Administration and governance
- Length of terms on executive and curriculum committees - this is outlined in the Bylaws as well as composition and appointment (Appendix 1, Article III, p. 51).
- Turnover of course coordinators - this will be addressed by the Program Director and Curriculum Committee to replace course coordinators as needed (Section 6.1.3, p. 43).
- Identification of core group of faculty - terms of membership of the Executive, Admissions and Curriculum Committees is outlined in the Bylaws. After the first year, there will be staggered two-year terms of service to ensure consistency (Appendix 1, Article III, p. 51).
- The Course Coordinators and Seminar Coordinator will remain consistent from year to year until a need arises for a change, as identified by either the Program Director or the Coordinator. The team leader for the courses will rotate on a yearly basis (Section 6.1.3, p. 43).

Resources
Issues of student stipends - all students will receive living expenses during the field work quarter, but will not receive a stipend from the GHS program for the other three quarters. As in other professional degree programs, students will be expected to support themselves and cover their living expenses. The program is designed as a one-year program to minimize the financial burden. During the first five years of the program, donor grants and gifts are projected to cover student tuition and fees (Section 7.1, p. 48).