

August 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D.
President

FROM: Jon Mogford, Ph.D. 
Working Group Chair

SUBJECT: Implementation Memo – Working Group #19a

Recommendation to be Implemented: Consolidate the Department of Health and Kinesiology in the School of Public Health, including clinical research associated with the Department of Health and Kinesiology [Health Education Division only].

Strategic Considerations:

The MGT Report proposed refocusing the School of Education and Human Development on the core mission of producing educators by moving the Division of Health Education (and all health education programs, including B.S, M.S. and PhD degrees) from the Department of Health and Kinesiology to the School of Public Health (SPH). The remaining divisions of the Department of Health and Kinesiology (i.e., Kinesiology, Sport Management, Physical Education Activity Programs) will remain in the School of Education and Human Development. The recommendation includes the transfer of clinical research facilities associated with the division.

The goal of transferring the Division of Health Education and its associated academic programs to the School of Public Health is to address duplication of programs between the two university components and provide a focused, public health education experience. This would improve the efficiency of the coursework offered towards degree plans for all programs in this merger, allow better alignment of course content with accrediting bodies to improve degree programs, ensure students graduate quicker, reduce duplication of shared faculty, and other benefits to TAMU. Furthermore, duplicate programs would be united under a single mission and vision and allow for greater collaboration between currently competing departments. This would also move a clinical research operation under the Department of Health and Kinesiology into the Health Science Center (HSC).

Workgroup #19a met weekly until the end of April. Workgroup members initiated discussions around three broad areas: people, facilities and opportunities/other actions. Discussions in each

area led the Workgroup to form subgroups that led construction of implementation processes focused on:

1. Undergraduates/Advising,
2. Graduate Students,
3. Financial Issues,
4. Centers,
5. Department Name,
6. “People, Things, Gray Area”

The subgroups led construction of implementation processes for each identified areas and briefed the committee for input, concurrence, and discussion on anticipated impediments to implementation.

Logistical Issues Addressed:

The primary issues addressed by the Workgroup included right-sizing student advisor ranks, accurately identifying impacted personnel (faculty/staff) and their requisite space needs and fully capturing financial aid impacts/solutions. The three primary issues were addressed in systematic fashion by the subgroups including aligning advisor needs for the incoming and existing students with the goal of maintaining student:advisor ratios within both the School of Education and Human Development and the School of Public Health. Space requirements and other general logistics issues (IT, parking, badging, onboarding) were identified and brought forward to the SIC and subsequently to the respective offices on campus to provide the needed planning and support.

The Workgroup also discussed the use of clinical faculty titles by incoming personnel from the School of Education and Human Development. Guidance received during our committee’s work was that since the TAMU Faculty Senate is in the process of evaluating faculty titles and their usage, including the clinical titles, we would keep the clinical titles for existing faculty for the 2022-2023 contract year. The Workgroup understood that this position may change in future years and that any future APT titles to support our teaching mission should use the instructional titles.

Finally, it was decided that all faculty/staff from the Division of Health Education would be merged into SPH’s Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences (HPCHS). In order to best integrate these faculty into a cohesive unit, all faculty associated with the Health Education Division and faculty in HPCHS engaged in a department renaming exercise. Overall, this iterative process included feedback and rankings from all impacted faculty, sought input and recommendations from university stakeholders (i.e., Dept. of Ecology and Conservation Biology, Dept. of Psychological & Brain Sciences), and ultimately established the *Department of Health Behavior*.

Major Challenges Encountered and Resolutions:

Aside from general logistical challenges described above, a major challenge created by this recommendation is that transferring degree programs from a General Academic Institution’s

Program Inventory to a Health-Related Institution's (HRI) Program Inventory is not permitted as an Administrative Change. Degrees impacted include: B.S in Community Health; B.S. in Health; M.S. in Health Education (both face-to-face and online); and PhD in Health Education.

The solution developed by the Office of the Provost is to create a "holding structure" – named Health Education Degree Programs (HEDP) – for the impacted academic programs associated with the Health Education Division for the purposes of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Program Inventory. The impacted programs will be held at the University level but administered by the School of Public Health until all affiliated students have either graduated and/or transferred to a new major. An integrated taskforce/committee (inclusive of Health Education faculty and SPH faculty) has already begun to plan new undergraduate offerings, such as tracks or cognate areas, while phasing out the existing Health Education B.S. programs from the TAMU Program Inventory. Overall, the committee seeks to honor the unique components of the Health Education program, such as the ability to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist exam, while (a) working within the confines of the Council of Education for Public Health accreditation requirements, and (b) recognizing that the current BS in Public Health is a school-wide degree and not specific to any individual department in SPH. SPH endeavors to have a revised school-wide B.S in Public Health, with newly infused elements from Health Education, established for FY24. Once the revised undergraduate degree is completed, faculty would then begin work on the Doctoral and M.S. degrees, respectively. General timelines for the Doctoral and Master's level degree revisions/integrations is to have work completed by FY25 at the earliest, but no later than FY26.

Key Logistical Issues to be Completed and Timeline:

Leadership from the School of Education and Human Development and the HSC are closely coordinating the operational/administrative transfer of the Human Clinical Research Facility (HCRF) to the HSC. The HSC's intention is to manage the HCRF as a project-based research focused core facility for human subjects medical research and clinical trials as part of regulatory approval work. The HSC will seek research partners from throughout TAMUS, clinical research organizations, and from external developers of health/bio-technology products.

Important actions related to the management of HCRF include:

- Creation of a "HCRF" Medical Research Committee that will be charged with developing a comprehensive plan to oversee clinical research to be conducted within this facility. The committee will include members of the HSC Schools and Colleges and may include other TAMU research leadership staff. Scott Lillibridge, MD, Associate Vice President for Global Health, will serve as the chair this Committee.
- On September 1, 2022, Scott Lillibridge, MD, Associate Vice President for Global Health, will be appointed as the interim Director for the HCRF and will oversee the implementation of the HCRF Medical Research Committee recommendations. Supporting Dr. Lillibridge will be Dr. Jorge Gomez (HSC Asst VP-Research) and Mr. Jesus Palomo (HSC Manager-Research Operations/Administration).
- By October 1, 2022, draft recommendations will be developed by the HCRF Medical Research Committee for my review and approval outlining the details concerning the priority areas for human clinical research to be conducted within the HCRF, and the

clinical support or improvements that will be required. Priority will be given to the HSC Schools and Colleges for the use of this space.

- Ongoing projects in the HCRF will be phased out over the next four months to avoid disruption of any ongoing sponsored work.

Approved:



M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D.
President

September 10, 2022

Date