

College of Public Health
Faculty Assembly
June 9, 2006

Dean's Report

We last met on April 7, 2006.
Here's what's been going on!

Paula Knaus joined us on May 15 as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. She has already begun delving into our processes toward greater clarity and efficiency and is working on a series of events that will help recognize the accomplishments of our faculty and promote our work, individually and collectively across the College.

We are organizing the work of the Strategic Action workgroups and will be bringing to the full faculty assembly at their August meeting a proposal for discussion, input and closure - - - so we can move from planning to action.

The Florida Institute for Public Health was officially launched in Lantana. All academic health institutions in the state have been invited to participate. We see many opportunities here for students and faculty to discover, learn and contribute to public health in the State of Florida.

I visited Manatee County and Hillsborough County. Like every other county health department I visit, these also are interested in collaborative partnerships. To that end, we have entered into a formal agreement with Sarasota County for the placement of interns in projects they identify. We'll be pilot testing this and may extend the model across our neighboring counties.

The Florida Public Health Association meeting will be in West Palm Beach at the beginning of August. The recipient of the Public Health Woman of the Year Award will be the luncheon speaker, sponsored by the College. In the meantime, there have been several meetings of the public health academic programs in the state, most recently with representatives from the Department of Health. A full-day meeting is being scheduled in Orlando for mid-July to share their needs and our interests and capacity to respond to those needs. A follow-up will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Dr. Reid's group will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Public Health Leadership Institute – quite a milestone! Congratulations!

We ended the Dean's Public Health Lecture Series for the 05-06 academic year. We will resume in August. I've had several suggestions for speakers and am always interested in others.

We concluded the first pilot of a culminating capstone course for the MPH with overall positive results. We are making some adjustments and will pilot it a second time this Fall. At some point, we will need to engage representatives from the departments who

would be willing to teach this once every other year – faculty with interests in applied public health, public health practice, leadership, etc. Our goal is to get this down to a complete musical score that only needs a good conductor. . .

The Executive Committee has held two half-day retreats since last we met, one on budgeting and the other on research. We'll be sending out some notes from the Research Retreat soon. We concluded that we need to do a better job documenting research, i.e. publications, presentations, graduate student work, peer recognition while at the same time we need to be submitting more fundable research grant proposals. You should all have been sent the Annual Report form – I apologize for this being so late – my fault entirely. Do your best to complete it so that your Department Chair can complete faculty evaluations and so that we can generate a College Annual Report – something we haven't done in a while.

I continue to work with Michael Hoad and with the growing Development staff on promoting the College to external constituencies. You should have heard about the Morsani gift for the Centers for Advanced Health Care. We need to step up our efforts and get some endowments for the College.

On the USF Health side, you may have heard rumors about changes in indirect return rates or consolidation of research efforts. Dr. Rao is working very hard on the medicine side to boost their research productivity. Most of what you hear or read is focused there. He will be convening a research advisory group across USF Health so that we can begin discussions about research efforts across Colleges. In the meantime, we still operate as usual with the appropriate level of independence.

Questions?