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TWIN CITIES

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CONFIDENTIAL

To: Henry Blackburn
From: Maury Mittelmark
Subject: Meeting with Jim Rothenberger

Jim Rothenberger and I met today to discuss the 3000 level course series for undergraduates and other issues including his integration in Epidemiology.

On his part, Rothenberger feels caught between a rock and a hard place vis-a-vis the Health Education Program in general. He feels a commitment to the present students and a philosophical commitment to the concept, but really feels more at home doing writing and reading in the arena of public health policy. He wants to develop a research program so that he will fit in with the new direction of the school, and has an idea about doing research on the effectiveness of personal health instruction. He's sending me a proposal that he developed last year to do a study on this topic.

He is getting mixed messages from Bob Kane and wonders if the Dean hasn't already decided to do away with 3000 level courses. Rothenberger is deeply committed to the idea that we should teach public health to undergraduates. He very much enjoys doing this teaching, but worries, of course, about who might back him up, should he experience another medical crisis.

I assured Jim that he will find Epidemiology, and especially the behavior group, to be enthusiastic about working with him to help him plan his own program of research or become integrated into something that's ongoing (or preferably, both). I also assured him on my and your behalfs that we do not have preconceived notions about the issue of undergraduate public health courses and that we hope are open-minded! For my part, I must say that I am starting to wonder about the wisdom of "making a fuss" about the 3000 level courses at this time. With so many very large problems to be dealt with re the School's reorganization, it seems an unnecessary distraction to now take on this relatively minor but potentially explosive issue. Furthermore, as an FCC representative to the Administrative Council, I'm not at all sure that I could support doing away with this teaching program. Indeed, it seems a small price to pay for the visibility it gives the school as being a place willing to reach out to other units of the University. Personally, I wish Bob Kane would drop this issue for now.

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As it turns out, I will not be in town on July 31 and so will miss that Administrative Council meeting. I let Bob Kane know about that, and he has postponed the discussion of the 3000 level courses. It also turns out that I will not be in town for the August 28th meeting and Kane may very well place the item on the agenda for that time. I know you don't want, and do not need, to be put in the situation of arguing in Administrative Council against this program... My suggestion is that you privately urge Dean Kane to postpone Administrative Council discussion until after internal and/or external review of the Health Education Program is complete. This would turn down the heat immediately, and would leave the impression that the Administrative Council is willing to take into consideration that counsel of the review groups. Alternatively, Bob Kane should find someone else take the negative side in the debate.

p.s. Since dictating this memo, you and I have talked about the 3000 level courses, and I have sent a memo to Kane, with copy to you, suggesting an alternative approach to this matter.