



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

SCHUMAN
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
(612) 624-5400

September 3, 1986

TO: Professor L. Schuman
FROM: Henry Blackburn
SUBJECT: Summer Session Secretary

The Division of Epidemiology is committed to the success of the Summer Session. In order for it to have a workable commitment and responsibility, there are normal basic needs for open and regular communication, efficiency, supervision, and accountability which we can discuss. I would welcome discussions with you at any time on how we could make the situation better.

An idea which occurred to us is providing a 50% position for a Senior Secretary which we would hire based on a joint position description with you for a full time person. This person could be trained by you and CME for the Summer Session job and by us for work here and be supervised by Arlene Hall who is such an effective coordinator for Division Training. Thus, you would have the needed position and we would have the required basic accountability which we have not had with your current secretary.

I understand that Dean Kane has also proposed an associate course director for you. I think that would be very healthy for the long run. It would allow you to continue directing as long as you and the Planning Committee desire but have someone to help you with the chores such as getting courses through EPC, etc. It would give time for the Planning Committee to evaluate your associate. It would allow re-integration of the Summer Session with the Division which has been lost since your retirement.

I am quite certain that you and I could work effectively together if there were such an associate, within this Division (we have outstanding young epidemiologists, with management skills, in Folsom, Burke, Sprafka and others) and if the joint secretary were normally accountable to the Division.

At any rate, we are happy to provide a 50% secretarial position and to jointly recruit and hire such a new person who would devote 50% efforts to the Summer Session needs. As for your personal secretarial needs, I continue to encourage you to apply for small grants to support your needed staff. We can, of course, take care of recurrent, but not regular needs, among Division secretaries.

cc: D. Surbey
K. Ring
R. Kane



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September 19, 1986

Dr. Henry Blackburn
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Henry,

Sorry I could not be at the meeting of Epidemiology Advisors on September 9 when the matter of course equivalencies between the regular and Graduate Summer Session offerings came up for discussion. Preparations for the Planning Committee meeting in Las Vegas have taken more than our full time.

I am now in receipt not only of the minutes of the Advisors Meeting, but your letter to the Divisional Training Committee. In regard to your handwritten P.S. to me, please be informed that it has been my policy to accept all Graduate Summer Session courses for graduate credit for our epidemiology students, including equivalence for Epidemiology I (Fundamentals) and Epidemiology II (which, prior to my retirement was the Infectious Disease Epidemiology course).

During my tenure, students admitted to the Epidemiology Program who had prior enrollment in Graduate Summer Session courses would have full transfer of credits in equivalence. The only additional requirement was that students were asked to sit in our regular course without credit or audit for contact with a different style of teaching which varies all over the country.

I have also checked with Dr. Kjelsberg who informs me that they have not had to be concerned with Helen Abbey's summer session course, Fundamentals of Biostatistics, for their graduate students who take courses other than the equivalent (5414). They have not rejected Helen Abbey's course as equivalent to 5414. The School of Public Health has accepted the Fundamentals of Biostatistics course as equivalent to fulfill the MPH requirement.

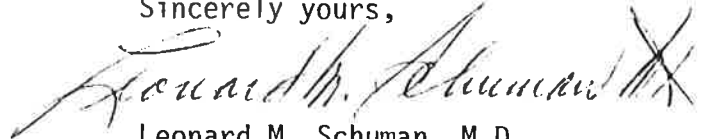
Handwritten notes:
 A Hall - Put on DTC agenda.
 Send to Credentials committee for a recommendation.
 R.P. Purcell ask Dr. Schuman to come.
 PC Div Training Committee (D.M. please verify facts re Biometry. Minutes.)
 H.B.

In regard to this change in philosophy in Epidemiology, please bear in mind that the summer program has always sought out teachers of excellence for all the courses, have had to equilibrate credit hours with contact time (as part of the Graduate School's requirement of the Extension Division) and has applied rigorous evaluations of the enrolled students for grading purposes. In the case of both Phil Cole and Helen Abbey, to insist on non-equivalence would be a mockery. I am concerned over the psychological impact which the recommended "admonition" of non-equivalence (with which I totally disagree) of the two basic summer session courses would have on the summer program which is utilized by all the other programs in the School of Public Health, including the Independent Studies Program. We must keep in mind that "Alternative Programs of Education" are also designed to meet the time constraints of the public health workers.

It should be of interest to you that other institutions, including other schools of public health and their departments of epidemiology, have accepted transfer of our Graduate Summer Session credits, at least for those students who have petitioned for such transfer.

I will be happy to discuss this at greater length if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,



Leonard M. Schuman, M.D.
Mayo Professor Emeritus and
Director, Graduate Summer Session
in Epidemiology

LMS/skc