



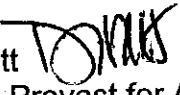
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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December 22, 2003

TO: Richard Clayton
Interim Chair, Department of Preventive Medicine and
Environmental Health

FROM: David Watt 
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

RE: Response to Memorandum of November 12

Please convey to the faculty my appreciation for their support for the relocation of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health to the proposed College of Public Health.

I have attached a signed copy of the memorandum of November 12. In signing this document, I am committing myself to working with the faculty to provide the clarifications requested in the memorandum. At this point in the process, I would prefer not to return to the KMSF Board for modifications to the recommendations provided by the Board several months ago. I think this would further delay the process of evaluating the proposal for the new College of Public Health, but in discussions with others, I believe we can resolve all of the points raised by the faculty.

I will comment on each of them and will follow up with you on these points in the course of the next month.

1. The faculty requested assurance of uninterrupted continuity of medical malpractice insurance if the unit transfers to the proposed College of Public Health. I will need to raise this issue with Ned Benson and the Medical Malpractice Committee, but my personal view is that we intended

to have this continuity of coverage would take place both as a protection for the faculty as well as the institution.

2. The faculty are concerned that the recommendations from the KMSF Board require that the chair of the Department be a practicing physician. The faculty recommend the appointment of a physician as a medical director within the Department who could potentially serve on the KMSF Board but who would not necessarily be chair of the Department. For the faculty in this Department, the KMSF By-laws stipulate that the faculty shall elect a *chair* from a non-Hospital department as well as a faculty member who represents primary care units. I doubt if KMSF would consider a modification to its By-laws to accommodate a medical director. If the Department selects a physician as chair, the chair and its faculty would be eligible for the seats on the Board described above. If the Department selects a non-physician, the physicians in the Department would still be eligible for the latter Board seat.
3. The faculty requested a provision that the current non-physicians in the Department will retain their eligibility to participate in KMSF and receive the benefits accorded the members. This is already covered in point [5] of the recommendations that stipulate that "KMSF benefits will be extended to current members of the plan," meaning MDs and those non-MDs who are "grandfathered" into the plan.
4. The faculty requested assurance that the recruitment of a permanent chair for the Department would be a high priority for the administration of the College of Public Health. Tom Samuels, as Interim Director, will commit to launching a search for a new chair as soon after approval of the proposal to create a new College of Public Health as possible. Tom Samuels will also commit to providing the administrative infrastructure in the Department to ensure its future success.
5. The faculty request that the administration of the College of Public Health examine ways in which faculty who currently have only a fraction of the salaries covered by a "state base" will receive full coverage on state funds. We cannot commit the administration of the new College to a specific timetable on this point or even commit to accomplishing this goal given the financial implications for the College. The faculty will need to raise and explore this issue with the permanent administration of the College.

cc: Bobby Rogers
Robert Mentzer
Tom Samuel