Dean’s Advisory Council  

Mission and Structure

The University of Georgia (UGA) College of Public Health was created in 2005 in response to the compelling need to address important health concerns in Georgia. Currently, Georgia ranks among those states with the highest per capita incidence of premature death, infant mortality, infectious disease, heart disease and substance abuse, and it ranks 43rd in terms of health status for her citizens on the United Health Foundation’s 2005 Edition of America’s Health Rankings. With advances in technology, transportation and production, populations and cultures are becoming more and more interconnected. This globalization is having a profound impact on public health, and we must be prepared to respond to public health issues on a global level in order to protect Georgia’s citizens against emerging or reemerging infectious diseases. These public health challenges are challenges which UGA, as Georgia’s flagship institution, must address, as it is our mandate as a land grant institution to serve the needs of the people of Georgia.

The College is built on a foundation of excellence achieved by the Department of Environmental Health Science (previously in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences), the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior (previously a part of the College of Education) and the Institute of Gerontology. Since its creation, the College has been building the necessary foundation for a program that will increase public health expertise throughout the Southeast. The growth of the College includes the hiring of 15 new faculty members in health policy, biostatistics and epidemiology and the creation of the Master of Public Health (MPH) and Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degrees, and we are the 5th college of 15 schools and colleges in generating external support for research at UGA. Having such research, teaching, and outreach programs in one College gives us the opportunity to enrich the student experience, enhance the scope of faculty talent and to better address the serious disease and health problems that affect populations around the state, country, and world. These goals require strong leadership and investment from within UGA and from outside.

The level of accomplishment we seek necessitates the additional support that only an independent body of dedicated volunteers can bring. Leaders with local, state, national and international expertise and reach will provide the final ingredient to launch the new College of Public Health. Known as the Dean’s Advisory Council, this body will primarily support the College in two areas:

1) Promotion of the College with external constituencies to increase name recognition of the School’s mission, academic programs and reputation; and
2) Development of external funding sources in concert with the Dean and Development staff.

The size of the Council will be 5 to 10 members. Members will typically be elected in the spring for service to begin the following July 1 for a three year term. New members will be nominated either by the Dean or an individual member of the Council and will be elected by a majority vote of the Council.
Generally, the work of the Dean’s Advisory Council will address the following goals:

- Enhance awareness of the School at local, state, national and international levels among external audiences;
- Support /development efforts by example and by helping to secure gifts to the College of Public Health.

Member Responsibilities

- Understand the College of Public Health’s mission and strategic plan;
- Keep up-to-date on developments within the College of Public Health;
- Provide senior level guidance and review of college programs and activities;
- Attend meetings of the Council twice annually—one in Athens and one at another location, most likely the UGA Alumni Center in Atlanta;
- Assist the Dean in setting College objectives with external constituencies and in outlining strategies for achieving those objectives;
- Assist the Dean with Senior Level Faculty recruitment;
- Provide advice or direct help in implementation of those strategies;
- Represent the College among the member's circle of influence;
- Make an annual gift to the College, preferably at the President's Club level;
- Encourage, identify, cultivate and solicit major and annual gift support from alumni or friends of the College of Public Health;
- Assist in the identification and recruitment of volunteers and potential committee members;
- Council members will assist in engaging alumni and friends in the activities of the College—through an introduction to our programs, invitations to small gatherings with faculty or friends, meetings with a prospect and development staff, sharing of materials, appropriate opportunities for visiting campus, and strategic requests for support.

Terms of service

Members will be asked to serve a three year term; renewals will be encouraged for the sake of continuity and initially a staggered rotation off the Council is preferable.