



SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

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4 January 2011

Laura Rasar King, MPH, CHES
Executive Director
Council on Education for Public Health
800 Eye St, NW, #202
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. King:

Thank you for inviting the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) to provide input on the latest proposed changes to the CEPH criteria for MPH programs.

Following are our comments:

Page 8 – SOPHE agrees and supports that the student perspective is important in appropriate areas of governance. Furthermore, we propose specifying in the text that all efforts should be made to recruit *diverse* student representation on committees and in advisory groups.

Pages 12-14 – Regarding Criterion 1.8 on Diversity, SOPHE endorses the revision of this criterion to allow programs to tailor the diverse student, faculty and staff initiatives within their MPH programs.

Pages 28-29 – The proposed revisions related to service are unclear, in particular in distinguishing service from research initiatives by faculty. In many cases, this work is inextricably linked, and it is through research skills and knowledge that faculty members provide service to the community. For example, some research or educational experiences may result in local or state policies that are aimed at creating healthier environments that are conducive to improved health for people who reside within those communities. Distinguishing service from research “without duplication” is challenging given the service/research nature of many health projects. It is recommended that CEPH provide additional clarification and examples of how and where to report work that combines service and research.

SOPHE is a 501 (c)(3) professional organization whose mission is to provide global leadership to the profession of health education and to promote the health of society through advances in health education theory and research, excellence in professional preparation and practice, advocacy for public policies conducive to health and the achievement of health equity for all. SOPHE’s membership comprises some 4,000 individuals with formal training and/or an interest in health education and health promotion throughout the United States and 25 international countries.

Thank you very much for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or need additional clarification.

Sincerely,

Daniel Perales, DrPH, MPH
President

M. Elaine Auld, MPH, CHES
Chief Executive Officer

