**Response to issues expressed by Graduate Studies Committee, Program Policy Statement for the PhD in Epidemiology (Updated March 13, 2019 following meeting with Deb Jaisi, Mary Martin, Doug Doren, Frank Newton, Kathy Matt, Jennifer Horney)**

**1. These courses must already be approved through the course challenge process:  EPID605, EPID610, EPID615, EPID620, EPID621, EPID622, EPID623, EPID650, EPID860, EPID964, EPID969 - concerned about the resources available to actually develop and teach all of the new courses.**

All of these courses have been submitted through Curriculog and approved through the course challenge process. In the first year of the MPH and PhD programs, we will only offer a subset of classes, with courses being staged in over the next three years. For example, EPID 605 (Epidemiology Methods 1) would be taught in Fall 2019; EPID 610 (Epidemiology Methods 2) would be taught in Spring 2020; and EPID 615 (Epidemiology Methods 3) would be taught in Fall 2020. By Fall 2020, when EPID 605 will need to be taught concurrently with EPID 615, the program will have recruited several additional faculty members.

We will be/have recruiting(ed) the following additional faculty:

* Saira Khan (MPH and PhD in Epidemiology, post-doc at Washington University in St. Louis) has accepted an offer to join the faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor.
* A second search has concluded and an offer has been made to a candidate who has an MSPH and PhD in Epidemiology and is currently a post-doc.
* The Disaster Research Cluster successfully recruited a candidate who will have a joint appointment at the Biden School and in the Epidemiology Program. She has a BS in Healthcare Management and Policy, an MSPH in Health, Behavior and Society, and a PhD in Public Health in the Epidemiology Concentration.
* We received a grant of $105,000 from the Delaware CTR ACCEL Program, a partnership between the University of Delaware, Christiana Care Health System and Nemours / A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children focused on building clinical and translational research in Delaware to support the recruitment of a additional faculty member at the Associate level.

Two new hires for the epidemiology department approved for Fall 2019 (see above); part of two cluster searches on campus (see above; the environmental toxicology search is ongoing); one new hire approved for Fall 2020; two additional hires approved for Fall 2021.

**2. Students are accepted only if they have a specific advisor—how many faculty are identified at present for students who would be accepted in Fall 2019?**

The Fall 2019 PhD class will be two or three students. Dr. Jennifer Horney currently has one PhD student who will be joining her from Texas A&M, her previous institution. Dr. Rebecca Pompon in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the College of Health Sciences has one highly qualified student who would come into the epidemiology program and be advised by Dr. Pompon. Dr. Freda Patterson has a master’s student finishing the BS in Health Promotion in Spring 2019 and may be interested in working with Dr. Horney on disaster epidemiology research.

**3. Committee members were not clear as to the role of faculty on the Potential Affiliated List—that is, potential or confirmed?**

In the preparation of the PhD in Epidemiology Program Policy Statement, we considered the best ways to leverage existing resources on campus for students in the program, particularly as it relates to forming their dissertation committee. Therefore, a listing of current faculty in the College of Health Sciences (for now – we anticipate that there would be others across campus) whose research or teaching is related to epidemiology methods and applications were identified by the working group. While no formal responsibilities have been assigned to this group, the intent was to demonstrate potential linkages. We are happy to remove the list from the proposal since it is only potential at this time. On March 13, Jennifer Horney, founding director of the program contacted all faculty listed in the PPT by email to obtain their consent to be included at this time as affiliated faculty.

**4. Concern of the committee that the Program Policy document did not define the members of the Program’s Administration in terms of who are the current faculty.  The document says it will be supported by current faculty from across the Collee of Health Sciences and a new hire.  They were not clear as to whether this is an interdisciplinary program and if so the administration would need to include faculty across disciplines.  The letters of support were from other persons in other colleges.**

See above for updates on the current faculty (3.25 including 1 faculty from the Disaster Research cluster). Since the submission of the Program Policy Statement for the PhD in Epidemiology, we have two new hires approved for the Epidemiology Program for Fall 2019 (an increase from one when the proposal was submitted). We are also part of two cluster hires. Faculty in other departments in the College of Health Sciences and in other Colleges in the University teach existing courses that will be part of the degree plans. Some of these courses are listed in the PPT slide set but there are likely additional courses that would qualify, particularly at the 800 level. The PhD in Epidemiology Program Policy Statement included Letters of Support from Department Heads and the Dean of the College of Health Sciences as well as Department Heads and Deans from across the University where these existing courses are taught. This is not formally an interdisciplinary program.

**5. The options for funding the students stated that tuition would be covered in fall, winter and spring semesters but the immediate sources of the funding were not mentioned—have TA lines been promised by the College of Health Sciences?**

Resources have been budgeted in the Epidemiology Program budget, which has been approved by the Dean of the College of Health Sciences. The College has budgeted for up to 4 doctoral level teaching assistants who would be funded to support teaching in the MPH program. New faculty start-up packages include support for doctoral students. Please refer to the Dean of the College of Health Science’s Letter of Support indicating the College will provide the resources necessary to support this program.

**6. Concern of the committee of the level of demands for Jennifer as a single assigned person for this new program.**

As explained above, two additional faculty have been recruited to start in Fall 2019, in addition to a shared faculty from the Disaster Research Cluster. There is the potential for another shared faculty member from the Environmental Toxicology Cluster as well as recent support from the CTR ACCEL Program for the recruitment of an additional faculty member for the Program at the Associate level.