Memorandum

To:        University Senate
From:   John Buford, Chair
         Council on Academic Affairs
Date:   September 1, 2016

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN MEDICAL
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

WHEREAS medicine and medical practice – including medical science, illness
and treatment, death and dying, and the institutions, practices, and
cultural discourses that deal with these matters – constitute
significant and rich objects of study that benefit from the
perspectives of the humanities and social sciences; and

WHEREAS the proposed program, housed in the Department of English, would
build on an existing curriculum evident in several humanities and
social science departments, establish an advising system to guide
students through it, and foster interdisciplinary research and
teaching; and

WHEREAS completion of the degree program can lead students in multiple
directions including toward medical school and more specialized
study in Ph.D. programs;

WHEREAS the proposal confirms that there are resources to implement and
sustain the program, and there is concurrence from units within the
Colleges of Arts and Sciences, and from the Colleges of Medicine
and Public Health; and

WHEREAS the proposal was reviewed and approved by a combined
subcommittee of the Council on Academic Affairs and of the
Graduate Council, and then by the full Council on Academic
Affairs at its meeting on June 22, 2016; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve the proposal
to establish an Interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree program in Medical Humanities
and Social Sciences, and respectfully seek approval from the Board of Trustees.