

M e m o r a n d u m

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.