

Academic Programs Committee Resolution

Master of Science in Global Health at Duke-Kunshan (MSc-GH DKU)

The Academic Programs Committee (APC) supports the Duke Global Health Institute's (DGHI) proposal for a Master of Science in Global Health to be offered through Duke Kunshan University. The MSc-GH DKU will be a Duke Degree taught on the Kunshan Campus and will be organized as a two-year program consisting of five core courses, four elective courses, fieldwork, and a thesis.

The APC is impressed with the thoughtful and innovative proposal, which builds upon the successful Durham-based MSc-GH program under the leadership of Drs. Mike Merson, Randy Kramer and Nora Bynum. The proposed template affords an appropriate and reasonable structure for the China program, and enables a suite of new global educational initiatives. The experience with these initiatives will help to define the relationship between the Durham-based and international global health programs and shape the specific nature of the curriculum in Kunshan. Synergies arising from the bidirectional information flow should improve both the locally and globally taught curriculum as well as research opportunities for faculty and students in both programs. As with other Kunshan-based programs, the APC recognizes the many opportunities for DGHI faculty to forge linkages with departments and programs across campuses.

APC recognizes that the Kunshan initiative represents a significant new strategic direction for Duke, which may bring enormous benefits for the university, but which also involves significant risks and no small degree of uncertainty. Thus, APC strongly endorses the administration's commitment to monitor developments in Kunshan closely, and to ensure that the programs Duke offers at campuses abroad maintain quality, diversity and academic freedom comparable to those of the programs that we offer in Durham.

Inasmuch as the MSc-GH is among the first Kunshan programs, APC is especially keen to receive data and reporting on issues that will apply both to it and to programs appearing in subsequent waves. Thus, APC's recommendation that DKU proceed with the MSc-GH degree program is conditioned on the following:

- 1) Assuming the first class matriculates fall of 2013, the APC will support this proposal as a three-year pilot, subject to review in spring 2016. Interim updates to the Provost's office will be important as well.
- 2) Strong metrics of success are crucial, including the quality of faculty, the quality of recruited students, graduates' placement, student satisfaction, financial viability of the program. In addition, APC would request assessment of cross-campus collaboration, especially with regard to faculty-mentored research (potential impact of distributed partners/mentors on timely completion of student research, sense of intellectual community across campuses and programs). We also recommend that the graduation rate be monitored closely to ensure that the advertised 2-year

program adheres to these criteria. We recommend that DGHI present statistical information on these metrics to APC or the Provost's office after the second cohort of students is admitted.

3) APC's support is based on DGHI's assurances that the program will matriculate a student body with significant intellectual and disciplinary diversity. It is anticipated based on discussions with the leadership of DGHI that a substantial fraction of the students will come from China and the remainder will come from other Asian countries.

4) Academic freedom and unfettered internet access in Kunshan are essential to the scholarly enterprise; APC recommends they be fostered and ensured by faculty governance committees and administration alike. We recognize that these issues are wide-ranging, longstanding, and not specific to the MSc-GH DKU program. We also recognize that issues that compromise Duke's core values would also compromise the viability of this specific program.