To: Pinky Wassenberg, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Administration

From: CPA&A Curriculum Committee

Subject: MPH Program Review

Date: April 19, 2011

On April 14, 2011, the College of Public Affairs and Administration Curriculum Committee met to assess, through suggestions, the program review of the Public Health Department (MPH). The CPA&A Curriculum Committee acknowledges the on-going development and growth of the MPH Department and would like to highlight:

- The increase in the MPH head count. The program has increased their headcount from a low of 34 in 2008 to the current headcount of 82 in 2011. Although enrollment data presented from other institutions are incomplete, the other established programs in the state have generally shown declines from 2002-2009.

- Their participation in campus initiatives, particularly their numerous contributions to the UIS ECCE curriculum. The MPH faculty members have submitted and received approval by the General Education Council for 10 of their courses to be offered to students to aid in their completion of the University ECCE requirements. They currently offer ECCE courses in Global Awareness, U.S. Communities, and the ECCE Elective. They were able to achieve this while increasing their headcounts and working through major curricular changes.

- The effort required to pursue accreditation, such as the exhaustive review of curricular competencies from 2009 to 2010 and the ongoing self-assessment.

As far as recommendations for the future, the CPA&A Curriculum Committee would like to see:

- An expansion in research productivity and community engagement, with a concurrent increase in solicitation of external funds, to achieve maximum efficiency and student involvement in these efforts. While we recognize that this is an incremental process that has recently been impeded by several factors, this may be possible once the MPH Department achieves curriculum and staffing stability.

- Continued movement toward accreditation and reaccreditation by the major bodies within public health education.

- The department members continue their assessment of the viability of some of its certificate programs, particularly the risk assessment certificate, and to monitor the roles they play in the overall success of the program. Although the department offers five certificate programs, only
16 graduate certificates have been awarded since 2008. During the same time interval, MPH records noted 111 applicants, 69 of which enrolled. While we acknowledge that the certificate programs are mostly still in their fledgling years, we encourage the department to focus efforts on more productive areas (particularly in light of the Council on Education for Public Health’s requirement for a particular number of faculty per program offered).

- Serious revisions to the program review, since there were a number of errors in the titles of certificates, names of courses, data within tables, ECCE courses listed (or not listed), that should be resolved before being presented to other committees.