



The University of North Carolina

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October 25, 2005

TO: Chancellor Steven C. Ballard
Provost James L. Smith

FROM: Alan Mabe

SUBJECT: Proposal to Establish a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Psychology

Your proposal to establish a doctoral program in Health Psychology will be presented to the Graduate Council on November 8, 2005. It has received both internal and external review. Two external reviews were done and are included with this letter. The review process has raised the following issues.

All reviewers were supportive of the proposed program and confirmed that there should be both an adequate supply of candidates for the program and attractive employment opportunities for doctoral recipients. Several previous concerns regarding the planning proposal have been addressed, but these reviewers still have some concerns about the pediatric school psychology option within the program perhaps because it is a relatively new concentration for which, I understand, specific accreditation standards have not yet been established. Reviewer 1 seems to want additional attention to developing the pediatric option and Reviewer 2 wants more attention to differentiating how training in this concentration differs from that provided in a traditional Educational Specialist program that trains school psychologists.

Reviewer 1 praises the “scientist-practitioner” model that is planned for doctoral education but does note that fewer than half of the faculty are licensed. That could be a problem for role models for the students. The reviewers reach somewhat different judgment regarding the current levels of research and funding. One sees the research as strong and the other sees the amount of funding as weak, and advises the program to set about establishing a culture of research funding among faculty and students alike.

Reviewer 1 recognizes the many potential clinical sites that had been identified but did wonder if these had been solidified with contractual arrangements.

The proposal will be provided to the Graduate Council along with a copy of this letter and the external reviews. We invite you to address the concerns in this letter and any other matters that you may have considered subsequent to submitting the proposal. If you do so prior to the meeting of the Graduate Council we will provide copies to members.

We look forward to the presentation of this proposal by representatives of the university at the meeting of the Graduate Council on November 8, 2005 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Your graduate dean should arrange for representatives of the program to make the presentation.

In the meantime if we can be of assistance or respond to any concerns, please let us know.

Cc: Senior Vice President Gretchen Bataille
Dean Paul Tschetter