

## A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Approval of Name Change for the School of Public Health and Community MedicineRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents approve changing the name of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine to the School of Public Health, effective immediately.

BACKGROUND

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine was established in 1970 by faculty members in the former Department of Preventive Medicine in the School of Medicine. At that time, many of the faculty members were MDs, and the School's professional degree, the Master of Public Health, was open only to physicians. Thus, the term "community medicine" was used to reflect the new School's strong medical orientation. However, the focus and the faculty members of the School have changed significantly over the intervening years to the point where community medicine has no meaning in the School.

There are a number of excellent reasons to drop the community medicine part of the School's name. As indicated above, no one, either in the School or externally, knows what "community medicine" is in the context of public health. Of the 40 accredited schools of public health, the UW's School of Public Health is the only school that has community medicine in the title. Having community medicine in the name also falsely advertises the School since there are no faculty or programs of study that reflect community medicine. Finally, community medicine in the School's name often leads to confusion locally with the School of Medicine.

The proposal to drop the community medicine portion of the School of Public Health's name has been discussed and approved by the School's Executive Council, the faculty in all of the School's departments, and also by its Faculty Council. The Dean of the School of Public Health and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation.