Response to Program Review Self-Study
Department of Public and Allied Health

On September 18-20, 2005 a site visit of the Department of Public and Allied Health took place for the purpose of program review. The site-visit team consisted of Drs. Jeanne Thomas and Kathleen McEnerney. Dr. Thomas is the dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Eastern Michigan University and Dr. McEnerney is dean of the College of Health Sciences at Tennessee State University. It was evident that both reviewers were diligent in their preparation having reviewed thoroughly the program’s self-study document and the characteristics of BGSU. The department faculty and staff found the site visit team to be highly knowledgeable and professional, and are indebted to them for their time and effort.

In general, we agree with the findings of the Program Review Committee (PRC) on all counts, but wish to elaborate on three key recommendations. The site visitors and PRC both pointed out that our planning process needs to be improved. We agree completely. However, at the time of our self-study, the department was searching for two new faculty members who would make up more than 25% of the unit. When we drafted our program planning document, the department was only 2-years old. In view of these circumstances we concentrated on short-range rather than long-range plans believing that it would be more costly to our morale to withdraw from plans and redefine ourselves, than to move forward slowly with the assurance that we are headed in the right direction. In the past year some definitive long-range plans have emerged. We have submitted plans for a new specialization in Health Care Administration under the Applied Health Science degree, and are committed in principal to do the same this year for Community Health. In August 2006, we will have a full compliment of faculty, and this spring the College of Health and Human Services completed its Strategic Plan 2006-2011. This will guide us as we develop a long-range strategic plan for the department. We have not formulated plans at the departmental level for collaborative research believing that faculty members must gain a foothold in their personal research interests. In fact, many faculty members are already engaged in collaborative research. To name a few, Dr. Jamasbi submitted two research proposals with Dr. Geusz (Biological Sciences), Dr. Kassa has a grant and proposal with Dr. Silverman (Environmental Health), Dr. Adams has a grant and proposal with Drs. Shields (Social Work) and Dunn (Criminal Justice). Dr. Schmalzried is conducting ground water contamination research with Drs. Keil (Environmental Health) and Fallon (Public Health).

The PRC cited a need to explore restructuring of the department to include Environmental Health. We agree in principle that Public Health and Environmental Health should be in the same unit, but not at the expense of the remainder of the department. Indeed, these two programs were together under Environmental Health when the MPH consortium was started, but were separated because of faculty friction. When the Public and Allied Health department was formed, Environmental Health was invited to participate, but both faculty members were strongly opposed to joining. The question is not whether Environmental Health and Public Health should be in the same unit, but whether the faculty members are willing to collaborate and cooperate with each other. We agree with the PRC that this issue needs to wait until after
the Environmental Health program review has been completed. At that time, the dean should decide whether reorganization warrants further consideration. The committee duly noted the physical inadequacy of the medical technology laboratory. We agree that both the allocated space and building infrastructure are woefully inadequate, but believe the safety concerns are overstated. Also, ADA/Section 504 accessibility issues apply to the building in general, and are not unique to our area. We are in the process of discarding and relocating equipment, and will ask Environmental Services to conduct a full safety inspection prior to the start of fall 2006 classes.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Harr, Chair
Public and Allied Health