



April 11, 2021

Associate Professor Maria Miriti
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee
Re: Approval of Proposal for a Minor in Public Health and the Arts

Dear Maria,

At its meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, the ASCC Arts & Humanities Panel 1 unanimously approved a proposal submitted jointly by our college and the College of Public Health to create an interdisciplinary undergraduate Minor in Public Health and the Arts.

This program creates an arts-based public health curriculum, perhaps the first of its kind in the nation, to promote arts and culture as ways to improve health, wellbeing, and health equity in communities. By combining foundational courses in public health and arts with discipline-specific courses in arts and humanities, students would gain an understanding of and appreciation for the way arts and culture are essential components of individual wellness and healthy communities.

The curriculum begins with two foundational courses, one in public health and one in the arts. Students then select at least three additional courses from two categories--one focusing on arts practice and one on studies in the humanities. The courses have a very broad disciplinary range yet each sustains a focus on public health, community service or applied arts. All courses in the minor are already being offered, the vast majority by our college.

The Department of English administers a minor in Medical Humanities, some of whose courses overlap with this proposed minor. However, the Panel believes this certificate remains substantially distinct. The Department of English has also provided concurrence as well as encouragement for this exciting interdisciplinary and cross-college partnership. The subsequent conversations with the Department of English have resulted in positive refinements to the course offerings.

The Panel now advances the proposal to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve. Thank you and please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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