



April 27, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I write today to convey my decision regarding the future of the College's Substance Abuse Prevention Program (SAPP). Upon careful consideration of formal reviews over several years, the college of education will be closing the SAPP program in its current form effective end of Summer 2017.

Though the evidence toward closure of the program was compelling and consistent, this was not an easy decision. The need for substance abuse and addiction prevention and treatment exists in every community and on every campus. Few households are untouched by addiction, and the role of substance abuse support professionals is a critical one. So the decision to cease our offerings was not one I actively sought to make as Dean, but was one that came to the fore following a thorough and compelling series of reviews both external and internal.

Ongoing Reviews (2006 – 2016):

A review of the SAPP program conducted a decade ago (in 2006) recommended 14 specific actions to rectify academic deficiencies that were identified at that time (See Attachment A of Briefing Document of April 6, 2017). Among the actions to be addressed were:

- Adherence to UO minimum course syllabi standards (Recommendation 1),
- Monitoring faculty credentials to ensure alignment with UO standards (Recommendation 3), and
- Review of SAPP course grading policies for their match to UO standards (Recommendation 4).

As an academic department, CPHS is subject to a thorough external review every ten years, in which their full array of academic offerings is evaluated by a respected and independent team of external faculty reviewers. During the Counseling Psychology and Human Services (CPHS) Department's Decennial review in Spring of 2016, SAPP was again identified as needing additional review due to concerns about, "*...the quality of instruction, the rigor of the curriculum, and the enrollment of undergraduate degree students into the program as an alternative to taking on-campus courses.*"

Follow-up Review (2017):

In response to the 2016 Decennial Review finding, I charged an ad hoc internal review committee with determining whether or not the SAPP meets our UO collective criteria of "*...mission alignment, academic excellence and fiscal responsibility*" (UO Provost's message of February 28, 2017). I asked the committee to address an additional 6 questions that

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operationalize these criteria (Committee charge of March 2, 2017). I also reviewed related documents such as the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between the CPHS department and UO Academic Extension, which offers all SAPP courses. This review produced highly similar findings to those of the previous reviews but provided greater detail (See Briefing document of April 6, 2017).

Some of the key and consistent findings that impacted the committee in their decision-making are listed here:

- The SAPP is not considered an approved UO academic degree program, minor, concentration, or program as the courses offered have never been approved by College or UO curriculum committees or processes.
- SAPP courses are not required for any academic majors at the UO or in the College of Education,
- Alumni and student outcomes data are not clearly documented or maintained, and
- There is no clear structure for student advising.

Our ad hoc faculty review committee offered three options for the future of the SAPP for my consideration (See Briefing document of April 6, 2017).

- Option 1 Summary: Close the course offerings.
- Option 2 Summary: Find the offerings a new academic home/college.
- Option 3 Summary: Redesign 6 – 8 of the core courses to be offered within the college as part of another degree.

In addition, the responses I received from CPHS faculty between April 14 and 21 indicated a preference for simply closing the SAPP program (Option 1), with a modicum of faculty support for Option 3. In light of the consistent review findings that suggest the need for substantial improvements to our offerings, I am in support of the recommendation to close the program.

Timeline:

It was a sense of loss that I announce that as of Fall 2017, all SAPP operations sanctioned by the CPHS Department and offered via Academic Extension (AE) will cease to be offered and the faculty appointments associated with SAPP (18 NTTF Instructors) will be discontinued. Coursework already identified for the summer will continue through Summer of 2017. Should any changes to the SAPP programming result in an academic incomplete for a student, the CPHS department will work with the student to manage the incomplete.

Continuous Improvement:

The work of any College of Education must stay focused on continuous improvement. In recognition of the need for this important work in our community, in September 2017 I will



ask our faculty to begin anew by charging our Associate Dean for Academic affairs with the task of pursuing Option 3 and creating a formally approved academic offering that is aligned with the mission of the CPHS department. I will also require that any and all courses on substance abuse, addiction, or related topics that are offered in the future be organizationally sponsored and aligned with CPHS or another academic department.

The courses impacted by this decision were overseen jointly by both the office of Academic Extension (AE) and the CPHS department. As we sunset this shared governance relationship, I offer my gratitude to the AE staff who have managed these offerings over the years. Sandra Gladney of the Academic Extension office will work with AE staff to adjust to any changes that impact their office following this decision.

In Closing:

As part of this review process I've had the pleasure of getting better acquainted with some of the SAPP faculty. I recognize their earnest commitment to their work and to serving our students and I have appreciated their input at various points throughout the review processes.

I wish to reiterate my fundamental belief in the need for this important work. As I mentioned before, few families are untouched by addiction, and our SAPP faculty can cite innumerable examples of this epidemiological fact. As a product of a family affected by alcoholism and as a former treatment provider myself, I want our college and university to succeed with this work. I ask that you join me, our faculty, our campus, and our community in creating services and professional preparation programs that are state-of-the-art, enduring, and produce the best outcomes for our students and society.

Sincerely yours

R.W. Kamphaus, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor

C Office of the President, Office of the Provost