

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the  
Regents  
November 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Department of Nutritional Sciences, School of Public Health

ACTION REQUEST: Approval to Establish an Academic Department

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

The School of Public Health requests approval to establish a Department of Nutritional Sciences. This proposal is the result of extensive discussions between the dean, the executive committee, and the faculty of the School of Public Health.

Nutrition has become a topic of interest in the past several decades with intensifying research and scholarship related to obesity, chronic disease risks, food safety and security, global hunger and under-nutrition, and the environmental impacts of food production. The proposed department will bring considerable value to the School of Public Health by providing both autonomy and clarity of focus upon nutritional sciences and its many interdisciplinary niches. The department will further facilitate research collaborations with schools and programs across campus, and will complement the emerging research and education initiatives spearheaded through the UM-School of Public Health, Office of Global Public Health.

The human nutrition program, currently housed in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, will transition to become the Department of Nutritional Sciences. The department will train masters and Ph.D. students and offer a new masters of public health in nutritional sciences degree. The new department will consist of five to six current full-time, tenure track faculty members with expansion to ten to twelve faculty over three years to accommodate student enrollment. The appointment of the chair of the department will be recommended by the executive committee and dean of the School of Public Health in a future request.

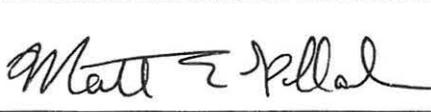
The dean and executive committee believe that the new Department of Nutritional Sciences is the organizational unit needed to sustain and enhance the School's reputation for excellence. The department was approved by the faculty of the School of Public Health on September 29, 2014.

We respectfully request that the Regents endorse this request by the School of Public Health to establish the Department of Nutritional Sciences, effective July 1, 2015.

RECOMMENDED BY:

  
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Martin A. Philbert, Ph.D.  
Dean, School of Public Health

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:

  
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Martha E. Pollack  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

November 2014