MEMORANDUM

TO: Arizona Board of Regents
FROM: Peter Likins
SUBJECT: College of Public Health
COPY: COP, George Davis, Ray Wooley, Edie Auslander, G. Marie Swanson

Because as Regents you have shown a special interest in strategies that enhance collaborations among our three universities, you should be aware of some of the lessons we learn as we strive together to meet these goals. Not every strategy is successful, so we regroup and approach our common goals in new ways.

At the University of Arizona, the Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree was established eleven years ago and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman Arizona College of Public Health (MEZACOPH) was established four years ago, by act of the Arizona Board of Regents.

In preparation for accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health, a letter of agreement was negotiated among the provosts at UA, ASU, and NAU defining MEZACOPH as a "tri-university college," with one of the of the five obligatory faculty and instructional elements provided by ASU (that dealing with healthcare economics) and four provided by UA. Students enrolled in all three universities were to participate in the MEZACOPH degree program. This was conceived as a cost-effective arrangement, as the UA would be spared the necessity of building faculty expertise in healthcare economics, and ASU would have some of the costs of this faculty group borne by UA through MEZACOPH.

Unfortunately, the Council on Education for Public Health took the benighted view that all five of the obligatory elements of faculty expertise must be present at the UA for accreditation to be warranted. MEZACOPH received an accreditation conditioned by this expectation.
Although we attempted for a time to preserve the tri-university structure of MEZACOPH, it has become apparent to all that the costs (variously defined) exceed the benefits (however defined). All three universities have agreed through consultation among provosts to advance the spirit of collaboration without the cumbersome administrative structure of a tri-university college. MEZACOPH will return to its ABOR-sanctioned status as a college of the University of Arizona.

The attached memorandum from MEZACOPH Dean Swanson provides details and assurances to our participating students.

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Enclosure: Swanson General Announcement