

A4. Autonomy for Schools of Public Health

A school of public health operates at the highest level of organizational status and independence available within the university context. If there are other professional schools in the same university (e.g., medicine, nursing, law, etc.), the school of public health shall have the same degree of independence accorded to those professional schools. Independence and status are viewed within the context of institutional policies, procedures and practices.

- 1) Briefly describe the school's reporting lines up to the institution's chief executive officer. The response may refer to the organizational chart provided in the introduction.**

Dean Michael G. Perri is the chief academic, administrative and financial officer of the college. As the chief executive officer, the dean is responsible for strategic planning and securing funding, space and other resources necessary to advance the college's missions in education, research and service. He provides operational leadership for the academic and scholarly programs and ensures that the college provides academic and professional programs of the highest quality. The dean is responsible for the fiscal integrity of the college, managing a diversified portfolio that includes state, federal and private funding, as well as a faculty practice.

The dean is appointed by the president and has reporting responsibilities to both the senior vice president for health affairs and the provost who also serves as the senior vice president for academic affairs. The dean reports to the senior vice president for health affairs on matters of research, clinical work, clinical training and interprofessional education. The dean reports to the provost on matters related to academic degree programs and certificates and state funding for the educational mission of the college (see organizational charts).

Within the college, department chairs report solely to the dean with the exception of the Departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, which differ from the other departments in the college in several ways. First, the biostatistics and epidemiology chairs report to the deans of both PPHP and the College of Medicine. Second, faculty and chair hires are overseen by both deans and both deans sign letters of offer. Third, indirect cost returns and student credit hours are evenly split between the two colleges. Fourth, the two colleges share responsibility for funding the departments' budgets, which are overseen by PPHP. Fifth, faculty may choose whether they will be reviewed for promotion and tenure according to PPHP or College of Medicine (COM) criteria. At the college level, faculty packets for tenure and/or promotion are reviewed by a tenure and promotion committee that is comprised of three tenured professors from each of the two colleges (PPHP and Medicine). In addition, both deans recommend to the senior vice president for health affairs whether to forward tenure and promotion packets to the UF Academic Personnel Board.

Day-to-day administration of the biostatistics and epidemiology departments is the responsibility of the dean of PPHP. On a monthly basis, the deans of PPHP and COM meet to review any issues needing attention. This organizational arrangement is supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is reviewed and updated periodically and signed by the deans of PPHP and COM, as well as the senior vice-president for health affairs. See ERF A4: MOU August 2020.

2) Describe the reporting lines and levels of autonomy of other professional schools located in the same institution and identify any differences between the school of public health's reporting lines/level of autonomy and those of other units.

The six colleges that comprise the UF Academic Health Center (AHC) include Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions and Veterinary Medicine. The deans of all six AHC colleges report to the senior vice president for health affairs (see organizational chart). Similar to the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the Colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing also report to the provost on matters related to state-funded educational programs. The College of Public Health and Health Professions has the same degree of autonomy accorded to the five other professional schools in the UF AHC.

3) If applicable, assess strengths and weaknesses related to this criterion and plans for improvement in this area.

Strength:

- The College of Public Health and Health Professions operates at the highest level of organizational status and independence available at the University of Florida.

Weakness:

- None identified

Plan for improvement:

- Not applicable