Dr. Kathleen R. Miner, Associate Dean at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health, spent two days meeting with representatives of School of HPER faculty, staff, and students to discuss our transition to a school of public health. Following an initial meeting with Vice Provost Tom Gieryn to discuss faculty needs for a new school of public health, Dr. Miner met with members of the Core Group to review the proposed mission statement and goals. Chairs representing each of the School’s four departments (Applied Health Science; Environmental Health; Kinesiology; and Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies) next met with Dr. Miner, along with the other members of Dean Torabi’s administrative team, including Deans Drs. Kathleen Gilbert, Michael Reece, and David Skirvin, and Ms. Kathryn Bayless. The final meeting of the consultation visit was held with members of the Steering Committee to review the proposed mission statement and goals.

The discussion regarding establishing and assessing meaningful competencies resulted in the proposed changes to the culminating experience of all MPH programs.

Dr. Miner’s council was most instructive and greatly appreciated by those who met with her.
STUDENT AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

Led by Dr. Deb Getz, the Student Affairs Working Group will work to cultivate a diverse student body and to ensure the alignment of admissions, recruitment, and retention activities across the MPH concentrations. Admissions decisions within each concentration will remain the responsibility of faculty who serve on the Admissions Committee for that respective concentration. Other members include: from RPTS Dr. Rasul Mowatt and Asghar Gharakhani; APHS representatives are Drs. Maresa Murray, Brian Dodge, and Susan Smith, along with Shannan Stryjewski; KINE’s Dr. John Schraeder; Indiana University Outdoor Adventures’ Dustin Smuker; and from the Dean’s Office Robert O’loughlin and Stephanie Marie Brown.

RESULTS FROM SCHOOL-WIDE SURVEY

Draft versions of the mission statement, goals and objectives were developed based on accreditation requirements; the MPH Program 2010 accreditation report; HPER’s existing mission and goals; and general research, teaching and service activities within the school. Seventy-nine (79) individuals – primarily faculty – commented on the drafts before edited versions were placed online for widespread input. Feedback was received from 250 people. When asked if the draft mission statement accurately reflects the mission of the school, 92% of the faculty; 90% of professional staff; 100% of support staff; 90% of graduate students; and 84% of responding Advisory Board members agreed that it did. Collectively, over 92% of the respondents agreed that the draft goals accurately reflect the priorities of the school. The written feedback from survey respondents provided substantial input for the next draft of these documents.

EVALUATION AND COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

The Evaluation and Competency Assessment Working Group will implement activities related to the evaluation of the Program, with a particular focus on the outcome indicators expressed in the MPH Program Management Plan. The Evaluation and Competency Assessment Working Group will work to submit recommendations for revisions to policies, procedures, and curricular matters based upon evaluation findings each academic year. Members of the Working Group include from APHS Drs. Laura Ann McCluskey and Susan Middlestadt, Working Group co-chairs, as well as Drs. David Lohrmann, Beth Meyerson, Ahmed YoussefAgha, Hsien-Chang Lin, Vanessa Schick, Ruth Gassman, and Catherine Sherwood-Laughlin; from ENVR Dr. Jo Anna Shimek; from KINE, Dr. Shingairai Feresu; from IPRC Mary Lay; from HPER Technology Services Bernadette de Leon; and representing the Public Health Student Assembly is Emily Myers.
CURRENT ACCREDITATION ISSUES

New Chair Joins School
It is a real pleasure to inform you that Dr. Ka He has accepted Dean Torabi’s offer to serve as our School’s first Chairperson of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Professor He will formally begin his duties on August 1, 2012. He is currently at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. He obtained his Doctor of Science degree in Epidemiology from Harvard University, a Master of Science and the Master of Public Health degrees from Tufts University, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Soochow University in China. Please be sure to welcome Dr. He!

Competency Assessment
The Evaluation and Competency Assessment Working Group continues to work with each department to ensure that this criterion is met. The goal is for each department to complete its competency matrix by the end of the fall 2012 semester. Leading the efforts for their respective departments are Dr. John Schraeder, Kinesiology; Dr. Maresa Murray, Applied Health Science; and Dr. Lynn Jamieson, Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies. Because the degree programs in the departments of Biostatistics & Epidemiology and Environmental Health were created based on CEPH requirements, the competencies for those degree programs are already in place.

Constitution Revised: New Bylaws Created
Following months of input from various committees and constituencies, resulting revisions of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws were posted online for full review and additional input. On Thursday, April 26, 2012, the Academic Council posted a previously announced ballot inviting all eligible faculty members to vote electronically on the documents. Of those who elected to vote, well over the required two-thirds majority was received for approval.

The School’s Constitution, which includes a revised mission statement and the new Bylaws, will take effect on July 1, 2012.

SUMMER and FALL TIMELINE

August 2012: Steering Committee meets to review 2011-2012 Evaluation Data
August – December 2012: Departments finalize degree program competencies and curricular revisions
August – December 2012: Working Groups continue to meet (contact evsgold@indiana.edu to join a Working Group)
August – December 2012: Bi-weekly meetings of Core Group continue development of Self-Study
August 2012 – April 2013: Monthly meetings of Steering Committee continue to review progress on Self-Study