The response to the Self-Study Report drafts has been nothing short of unbelievable, and the improvement to the document as a result of your input cannot be overstated. Questions have been posited in the comments section of the Qualtrics survey that followed each section and we have had no way of answering them since we cannot track the respondents. So, we thought it might be helpful to publish responses to common questions for everyone to see. Hope this helps!

Q: Why doesn’t the Self-Study Report mention the “gorilla in the room”—that IU has two schools of public health?

A: The short answer is that CEPH doesn’t care if there are other schools of public health in Indiana: their assessment is of the Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington. The Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI will be subjected to the same independent accreditation process as ours.

Did you know that California has four schools of public health (two of which are located at different University of California sites) and New York has five schools of public health (three of which are located at different State University of New York sites)? Multiple schools of public health in one state or within one university system are very common and our state is in need of public health assistance.

The latest (April 2013) “Investing in America’s Health . . .” report lists Indiana as #50 in the country for the level of federal funding in public health, #50 for the state with the worst fruit indicator among high school students, and #49 for federal funding for states from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Indiana needs two schools of public health.

Thanks for asking!

Q: How are faculty numbers calculated?

A: Faculty in a school of public health are those who are full-time university academic appointees with 100%

THANKS FOR ASKING!
appointments to the school of public health. Primary faculty can include those who have appointments in a department or division of the school or in a research or service center that is housed within the school or controlled by the dean. Primary faculty in a school may hold any category of faculty classification and rank that is appropriate within that context, but teaching and mentoring students must be a fundamental component of primary faculty’s expectations. Full-time research-track faculty who contribute to teaching and mentoring students constitute primary faculty.

Thanks for asking!

Q: Why are some of our programs being labeled “public health” and others labeled as, well, “other?”

A: Required documentation for CEPH includes an instructional matrix presenting all of the school’s degree programs and areas of specialization. The matrix must distinguish between public health professional degrees, other professional degrees and academic degrees at the graduate level, and distinguish baccalaureate public health degrees from other baccalaureate degrees.

Graduate and undergraduate coordinators from each department, in consultation with their respective department chair, submitted a list of how each degree program should be represented in the instructional matrix contained in the Self-Study Report.

Thanks for asking!

Q: I serve on dissertation committees within the SPH that are outside of my department: why aren’t I counted in those other departments as supporting faculty or as a faculty affiliate?

A: Faculty are encouraged, indeed expected, to share their expertise through a variety of ways, including teaching or co-teaching courses in other departments, collaborating in interdisciplinary research, and serving on thesis and dissertation committees, to name just a few. The department that houses our primary academic discipline is the affiliation reflected in our self-study in the faculty tables.

Thanks for asking!

Q: What happens next . . . when is the site visit?

A: The Self-Study Report is due to CEPH on June 23, 2014. Sometime in the early fall we will invite national experts to our campus to conduct a mock site visit in an effort to better prepare for the actual site visit which is scheduled for December 8, 9, and 10, 2014.

Thanks for asking!

If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to ask!