December 17, 2009

Mary Finn, PhD  
Associate Provost of Institutional Effectiveness  
Office of the Provost  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mary:

I support the Institute of Public Health (IPH) self-study document for academic program review. The IPH review spans July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009 (FY 2007, FY 2008, FY 2009). Under the leadership of Dr. Michael Eriksen, director, the institute has expanded its course offerings and increased its student enrollment, including Fulbright scholars from around the world. The high caliber of faculty research and community service impact local to global public health needs. The IPH activities and future goals are in alignment with the strategic direction of Georgia State University to become a premier research university.

Although the external reviewers will be addressing evaluative criteria for the last three fiscal years, I would also appreciate their professional input around IPH’s future goals and objectives. Specifically, it would be most helpful if the reviewers would address the following:

1. Development of the PhD in Public Health Science: assessment of resources to support doctoral education; infrastructure to support faculty/student research funding and activities.
2. Center for Healthy Development (recently added as a component of the IPH): assessment of how the Center can contribute to IPH and vice versa, particularly in the area of disabilities and public health.
3. School of Public Health: assessment of the viability of this long-term goal to become a School and the resources and work necessary to achieve it.
I look forward to welcoming the external reviewers to campus. Please know that the Dean’s office is available to assist as needed.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Kelley, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
College of Health and Human Sciences