

TO: Gail Whitchurch
Recording Secretary
SLA Faculty Assembly

FROM: Kevin Cramer
Chair
SLA Graduate Curriculum Committee

DATE: 10/21/11

RE: Faculty Assembly resolution approving Department of
Communication Studies Health Communication Ph.D.
Program proposal

1. The Graduate Curriculum Committee has reviewed the proposal for a Ph. D. program in Health Communication submitted by the Department of Communication Studies.
2. This program would prepare students to teach and conduct research in mediated healthcare communication, translate this research into practice, and secure academic jobs or other professional positions in this field.
3. Health communication is an emerging field driven by an increasing emphasis on health literacy and more effective healthcare delivery. There are a growing number of jobs in the field of healthcare that demand the training and competencies this program offers. Currently there are 79 universities with doctoral programs in health communication.
4. This program would take advantage of the institutional, research, and clinical resources of the IUPUI campus as an integral part of the university's mission within the Health and Life Science initiative.
5. Based on these considerations, the Graduate Curriculum Committee submits this resolution to the Faculty Assembly recommending approval of this program.