

Guidelines Concerning Appropriate COPH Co-teaching Circumstances **Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health**

At the request of the Dean, the COPH Academic Standards Committee (ASC) met in June 2010 to develop recommendations concerning circumstances in which co-teaching is of significant value to the College and should be supported. These recommendations were subsequently developed into the following set of recommendations, and discussed and endorsed by the Dean's Executive Committee (DEC).

The ASC and DEC members recognized that multiple faculty members may wish to co-teach a single course for several reasons, and that often such co-teaching has considerable benefits in keeping with the College's mission. However, ASC and DEC members also recognized that co-teaching also has costs to the College and its Departments, particularly in that co-teaching may reduce the number of unique classes that may be offered with a finite number of faculty resources or a finite budget for compensating external faculty.

In ASC and DEC discussions, three (3) broad types of co-teaching were identified that are consistent with the College's mission, and which should be supported by College leadership. These include the following:

1. Co-teaching of courses that are clearly interdisciplinary in nature (typically by faculty from different departments), and co-taught by faculty from each discipline (e.g., Social Epidemiology, taught by a faculty member in Epidemiology and a faculty member in Health Behavior);
2. Co-teaching of courses that integrate concepts from a single discipline across distinct content areas, and co-taught by faculty with expertise in each content area (e.g., Understanding Tobacco Use and Obesity, taught by an expert in tobacco cessation and prevention and an expert in obesity prevention and treatment); and
3. Co-teaching of courses as a form of mentorship, in which a post-doctoral fellow or junior faculty member who is new to teaching co-teaches with a more experienced faculty member (this mentored co-teaching should, in nearly all cases, be limited to one semester of co-teaching for a junior faculty member) .

Department Chairs should use their discretion in determining all teaching assignments, including co-teaching, with a focus on the goal of maximizing faculty resources and the number of courses that the College can offer. Generally, co-teaching should be limited to those courses in which there is a demonstrable value to involving more than one instructor, and most co-teaching in the College should clearly fit into one of the three categories listed above. However, the determination of whether co-teaching is appropriate for a given course should be one that is primarily made by Department Chairs in collaboration with the relevant faculty, since Department Chairs have considerable responsibility for assuring that courses are offered so that students can meet all curricular requirements for the various degree programs within the College.