December 3, 2013

TO:   Paul DeLuca, Provost

FROM: John Karl Scholz, Dean

RE:  Request to Discontinue L&S Undergraduate Major in Medical Science

CC: Gery Essenmacher, Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs, L&S
Elaine Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, L&S
Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Analysis
Scott Owczarek, Registrar
Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Associate Dean for Academic Administration
Eric Wilcots, Associate Dean for the Natural and Mathematical Sciences, L&S

On December 3, 2013, the L&S Academic Planning Council considered my request to discontinue the L&S undergraduate major in Medical Sciences, which had long existed as a partnership between L&S and the School of Medicine and Public Health. The program was designed to award a BS degree to students who met a set of general course requirements. In general, these students had been admitted early to medical school and had completed three years of baccalaureate-level study, during which time they were expected to complete all L&S degree requirements (other than the major) and one year of medical school. The first year of medical school served, in effect, as a "capstone experience" to the bachelor's program.

The nature of the program means that there is no “Medical Sciences Program” faculty per se to consult concerning this request; therefore, Assistant Dean Elaine Klein and I provided the council with the following information:

- In Fall 2007, SPMH admitted its final cohort of Medical Scholars, the program connected to the Medical Sciences major.
- With no students entering the pipeline, admission to this major (with provisions that would allow qualified students in the final cohort to be admitted) were discontinued by L&S APC (April 2008) and University APC action (May 2008).
- The major last appeared in the 2007-2009 Undergraduate Catalog, and has not been available in public-facing institutional materials (e.g., the Undergraduate Application) for some time. There are no students in the admissions pipeline.
- At this time, it appears that the final group of students has completed the program.
- Students admitted to the program who stopped out and seek reentry to complete the program will be advised by L&S Student Academic Affairs and a recommendation will be made concerning appropriate alternative majors they may be eligible to complete.

The L&S APC and I recommend discontinuing this program.