January 26, 2010

Re: Graduate Education Program Task Force Response

I appreciate the effort and evaluation of the graduate programs and our assessment as ‘High Quality’. This response is additional information that might be considered.

1) In 2006 the Department was ranked as the 4th best Department of Epidemiology in the United States in the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index. In 2007 the Department ranked 5th. The Departments above the University of Iowa are in universities with much larger departments. No ranking was done in 2008 or 2009.

2) The faculty and staff have received distinguished lectureships, college research, teaching and service awards, and alumni awards. Robert Wallace was a 2001 recipient of the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. Distinguished College of Public Health lecturers have been given by Robert Wallace, Linda Snetselaar, Betsy Chrischilles and Greg Gray. Endowed Professorships include the Irene Ensminger Stecher Professorship in Cancer Research, the Marvin and Rose Lee Pomerantz Chair in Public Health and the Preventive Nutrition Education Chair. Also the Department awards faculty, staff and students with the Epidemiology Staff Council Awards and the Epidemiology Student Association Mentoring Awards. Scholarships are awarded to students through the Isacson Cancer Epidemiology Scholarship and the Shari Chen-Hardee Memorial Scholarship. Eight alumni have received The College of Public Health Distinguished Alumni Awards. Two alumni have been awarded University Distinguished Alumni. In 2007 the Hsu-Li Distinguished Lectureship was established to provide for an annual lecture in international epidemiology. Three lectures have been given.

3) The Department has state, national and international education and research programs. The Cancer Registry and the Iowa Registry for Congenital and Inherited Disorders have received quality registry awards. Robert Wallace is a member of the Institute of Medicine and several faculty have participated in IOM panels. In collaboration with the Center for International Rural and Environmental and the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases the Department has developed international Memorandum of Understanding with Trnava University, Trnava, Slovakia; Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and the College of Public Health, National Center for Communicable Diseases, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorat, Tulcea County, Romania; and Health Informatics of King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Also research and student practicums have been done in collaboration with colleagues in Haiti, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Nigeria, Peru, Egypt, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Mexico, Romania, and the Netherlands. Research is being conducted by faculty in Finland, Australia, Canada, Niger, United Kingdom, Mozambique, Mongolia, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Italy, Slovakia, Romania, Germany, and Czech Republic. Other countries are part of international cooperative efforts.

James C. Torner, MS, PhD
Professor and Chair