



October 13, 2014

Dear Curriculum Committee,

I am writing in regards to MICR 3012 – Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health, a course proposed by Dr. Karen Nakaoka. This course fills a void in our program for students interested in global and public health. While I teach two medical-related microbiology courses that do partially overlap with this proposed course, the topics covered are vastly different.

In MICR 3305 – Medical Microbiology, the majority of the course is spent teaching molecular mechanisms of pathogenesis of medically important pathogens, primarily from the human bacterial pathogen perspective. Additional topics include collection and transport of specimens, specimen processing, and identification of specimens by classical, automated and molecular technologies.

In MICR 3403 – Tropical Diseases, the majority of the course is spent teaching the identification and pathogenesis of protozoan, cestode, trematode, and helminthic agents from the human pathogen perspective.

While a few of the proposed pathogens and diseases in Dr. Nakaoka's course are also covered in one of the above courses, she will focus more on those that occur in a higher frequency worldwide with an emphasis placed on preventative interventions such as vaccination, water treatment, and strategies for elimination and eradication. These emphases are either not covered at all, or are only very briefly mentioned in the two courses I teach.

Again, the proposed topics in this course will be of great benefit to students pursuing an education in the public health areas of microbiology. I fully support this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason M. Fritzler'.

Jason M. Fritzler, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Microbiology

(801) 626-6949 | (801) 626-7445 FAX