Allan Gilmour, President
4200 FAB
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Dear President Gilmour,

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) - the nation’s only professional society that represents all of the multiple disciplines that comprise environmental health - is writing to express its concern after recently learning the dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Science has decided to recommend to the Wayne State Board of Governors closure of the Occupational and Environmental Sciences (OEHS) program to meet his budget reduction requirements. The National Environmental Health Association is opposed to the elimination of yet another environmental health college program in Michigan for several reasons, not the least of which is, according to our sources, the cutting of the OEHS program will not save the University any money as it is cost neutral with regard to tuition, fees, and state capitation covering costs. There appears to be no logic in the rationale to close the program.

The Occupational and Environmental Sciences program is nearly 60 years old, having been founded in 1954. It is one of 35 programs internationally that offers the MS in Industrial Hygiene and is recognized as one of the top programs in country. It is unique being an evening program to accommodate the part time working student. The OEHS program is accredited by the American Board of Engineering Technologies (ABET) and graduates leaders of environmental health, industrial hygiene and safety management. There are 10 American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Fellows associated with the program.

Additionally, the Occupational and Environmental Sciences program graduates protect lives and well being of workers across the nation and the field is critical for recovering Michigan industries. Industrial Toxicology and Occupational Safety are all important components of the protection for industrial workers. Investopedia lists Industrial Hygiene as one of seven jobs companies are desperate to fill. Helping to protect workers has long been viewed as part of WSU’s urban commitment to Southeastern Michigan. The program has about 45 graduate students currently enrolled and over 500 EHS professionals have graduated from the program. There are 17 fractional, part-time and adjunct faculty with a wealth of practical experience in government, unions and a variety of industries.

The National Environmental Health Association urges you to reject the dean’s recommendation and continue the venerable Occupational and Environmental Sciences program at Wayne State University.

Very truly yours,

Mel Knight, REHS
President
National Environmental Health Association

cc:
Board of Governors
Darren Bowling, RS President, Michigan Environmental Health Association