



**Cornell University**  
**The University Faculty**

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Date: May 11, 2021  
To: Deans, Directors and Department Chairs  
Faculty Senators  
From: Charles Van Loan, Dean of Faculty  
Re: College of Veterinary Medicine request to establish new department

The faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine would like to create a new department, the Department of Public and Ecosystem Health. Notice of this department creation is being sent to the Deans, Directors and Department Chairs in accordance with the [policy](#) adopted by the Faculty Senate in November 2001. Any questions or comments about this new department should be sent to [deanoffaculty@cornell.edu](mailto:deanoffaculty@cornell.edu) by **Tuesday, May 18, 2021**.

### **Rationale**

The primary reason for the creation of this department is that it will utilize a One Health/Planetary Health systems approach, in which human health and animal health populations are both considered. College initiatives in sustainable food systems, infectious disease, and wildlife health will be tied together and strengthened by cross-cutting topics such as antimicrobial resistance, disaster preparedness and response, and public health practice. The current College departmental structures do not combine these elements, creating some barriers to success within the college and university, and hindering their ability to communicate about their programs and impact externally. This new department will serve as the administrative home for Cornell's Master of Public Health Program and is expected to meet the needs of the growing Master of Public Health Degree Program. This new department structure would better serve the needs of the Program faculty and the Program.

### **Approval History**

The College of Veterinary Medicine has had ongoing discussions for several years regarding the potential for a new department. In late 2020 discussions with the department chair of the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, and the Associate Dean for Diagnostic Operations and Executive Director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC) took place because many of the faculty members that will form the new department are currently appointed in those units. In early February 2021 an all-faculty meeting of the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences to present information about the new department, and to open discussions about proposed membership was held. The new department information was presented to the entire college faculty on February 4, 2021. In addition, a survey was distributed to all college faculty members to gauge support for creation of the Department of Public and Ecosystem Health. Of the 89 responses to the survey: 65 responded "I support", 10 responded "I do not support", and 14 responded as "no opinion." This new department is fully endorsed by the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Lorin Warnick.