



SPH Dean Search Update

From: Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson

Jan 15, 2021



Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

Dear School of Public Health Faculty, Staff, and Students:

In the fall, I announced the intent to launch a national search for a new dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota, following Dean John Finnegan's announcement of his plan to retire next year. I am writing with an update on that search.

I have now appointed a search committee that will convene this month. I want to thank Trevor Ames, Associate Vice President for Academic Health Sciences and Dean Emeritus of the College of Veterinary Medicine, for agreeing to chair this important committee. The members of the committee were selected from a pool of nominations from the SPH community, to ensure that the committee would represent diverse viewpoints of multiple stakeholder groups. As with all dean searches, the committee is primarily made up of faculty who have the academic networks and expertise required for an academic hiring process, but also includes staff, student, and external representation. Many thanks to all who sent nominations; I am grateful for your help.

The School of Public Health is well-positioned to recruit a strong and diverse pool of candidates who will continue to advance nation-leading educational and research programs ensuring excellence in public health. The search committee will work with a search firm to hold listening sessions and then to develop a position profile that reflects broad input. The engagement of the entire SPH community in these listening sessions will be pivotal in this process; I hope you will watch for the invitations to these sessions and participate as you are able. Your input will shape the position profile and guide the recruitment of candidates.

The search committee will then engage in a confidential phase of candidate recruitment and screening and identify a small subset of candidates to recommend to me for consideration as finalists. Once finalists have been announced, please watch for information about public interviews, when your engagement will again be critical: I will greatly value your feedback to help me evaluate finalists during the final decision-making stage.

We have established a [search webpage](#) on the SPH website. It includes a list of the search committee members, and search updates will be posted on this site. I will also continue to provide periodic email updates to the School as the search progresses. Questions about the search process may be directed to [Kate Tyler](#) in my office.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the School of Public Health and the University, and especially for your engagement as this important search moves forward.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel T.A. Croson
Executive Vice President and Provost