

Faculty Assembly Final Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2020

12:00-1:00 pm

Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/97307674218>

Primary Faculty and Lecturers Present: Janet Foote, *Chair*

Halima Alaofo, Gail Barker, Melanie Bell, Heidi Brown, Jeff Burgess, Stephanie Carroll, Heather Carter, Scott Carvajal, Zhao Chen, Dan Derksen, Kate Ellingson, Leslie Farland, David Garcia, Joe Gerald, Lynn Gerald, Laura Gronewold, Iman Hakim, Robin Harris, Paul Hsu, Aminata Kilungo, Lindsay Kohler, Velia Leybas Nuño, Purnima Madhivanan, Priscilla Magrath, Martha Moore-Monroy, Adaeze Oguegbu, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Amanda Soka, Xiaoxiao Sun, Terry Urbine, Marc Verhougstraete, Nicole Yuan,

Primary Faculty Absent: Leila Barraza, Paloma Beamer, Ed Bedrick, Dean Billheimer, Benjamin Brady, Leslie Dennis, John Ehiri, Kacey Ernst, Eduardo González-Fagoaga, Jennifer Hatcher, Patricia Haynes, Chengcheng Hu, Beth Jacobs, Yann Klimentidis, Mary Koss, Mark Martz, Sheila Parker, Sydney Pettygrove, Rustin Reed, Boris Reiss, Kelly Reynolds, Denise Roe, Cecilia Rosales, Doug Taren, Cynthia Thomson, Jin Zhou

Other MEZCOPH Personnel Present:

Rebecca Crocker, Duke Duncan, Danielle Embry, Melissa Furlong, Alejandra Gabriel, Yiwen Liu, Jean McClelland, Rufugio Sepulveda, Raju Thiagarajan, Chris Tisch

1. Review / Approval of July 31, 2020 Meeting minutes (*Janet Foote*)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The July 31, 2020 minutes were approved by all voting members present.

2. Program Reports and Introduction of New Faculty

a. Community, Environment & Policy (*Joe Gerald & Aminata Kilungo*)

No updates.

b. Epidemiology & Biostatistics (*Kacey Ernst & Ed Bedrick*)

No updates.

c. Health Promotion Sciences (*Velia Leybas Nuño & Scott Carvajal*)

No updates.

d. PHP & Translational Research (*Terry Urbine & Heather Carter*)

PHP is continuing to develop curriculum for a new BA program. Terry introduced the newest members of PHP faculty, Mark Martz and Adaeze Oguegbu.

3. Nominations for Chair-Elect (*Janet Foote*)

Each year a chair-elect will be chosen by the voting members of the Faculty Assembly. Janet asked faculty to nominate colleagues or themselves for this position so that we may be ready to vote by the next meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Send nominations for Faculty Assembly Chair-Elect to Janet Foote prior to September meeting.

4. Discussion: Inclusion & Equity Committee (*Nicole Yuan*)

The college is hiring an Interim Associate Dean for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.

A MEZCOPH Climate Survey will be sent to all members of the MEZCOPH community in September. Participation in the survey is strongly encouraged. It will be an important feedback mechanism for identifying what we are doing well and areas of concern.

In response to a letter submitted to the college by MEZCOPH students of color, staff and faculty have drafted and signed a Staff and Faculty Solidarity and Commitment Statement to show support and demonstrate a commitment to make changes related to institutional racism and systemic inequality. The staff have conducted a listening session and plan to hold another at the end of August. Nicole asked faculty how they would like to be engaged in the effort.

Comments from the committee:

- There is value in developing a college-wide faculty response because activities are cohesive, with standards and expectations applied across all units.
- It might be helpful to create a syllabus/D2L/assignments screening system whereby college syllabi and class documents are reviewed for insensitive language.
- Efforts in this area could be included in the college strategic planning process.
- Faculty expressed interest in small group listening sessions, where outcomes are summarized and shared at faculty assembly to determine future action items.
- Creating a library of trainings and resources would be helpful.

5. Follow-up from Re-entry Task Force and recommendations for MEZCOPH (*Kristen Pogreba-Brown*)

The UA Campus Re-entry plan has changed and continues to evolve. President Robbins has put together a Public Health Advisory Team to evaluate various metrics within the university and local community, reporting back to him weekly. The team will provide the president advice on the timing of each phase during our re-entry to campus.

6. Faculty Senate Update (*Joe Gerald*)

Faculty Senate is holding an emergency session on Monday, August 17th, to discuss the acquisition of Ashford University. It is controversial amongst faculty for many reasons, including Ashford's exploitative recruitment/educational/financial aid practices, low graduation rates, and how the acquisition may affect the university's image and standards. The new acquisition will be overseen by a separate arm of the university that is not subject to transparency laws which apply to most university operations, limiting oversight and accountability. Joe invites faculty to send him comments and concerns prior to the meeting.

All faculty may attend Faculty Senate meetings by registering in advance on the Faculty Senate webpage.

7. Announcements

- a. Dr. Jeff Burgess asked faculty to send their AIMS pages for the September RAC meeting.
- b. Kristen Pogreba-Brown is still recruiting contact tracers for her team this fall. Faculty are encouraged to refer interested undergrad/grad students to her.

8. Date for Next Faculty Assembly Meeting (*Janet Foote*)

Faculty agreed upon September 25th for the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Changes or corrections to the minutes should be submitted to:

Danielle Embry, *Coordinator, MEZCOPH Academic Curriculum and Faculty Affairs*