

Faculty Assembly Final Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2020

12:00-1:00 pm

Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/96683858783>

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

Halima Alaofo, Gail Barker, Leila Barraza, Benjamin Brady, Heidi Brown, Jeff Burgess, Stephanie Carroll, Chris Cutshaw, Dan Derksen, John Ehiri, Leslie Farland, Melissa Furlong, Lynn Gerald, Iman Hakim, Lee Ann Hamilton, Robin Harris, Beth Jacobs, Aminata Kilungo, Lindsay Kohler, Purnima Madhivanan, David Marrero, Mark Martz, Adaeze Oguegbu, Sydney Pettygrove, Kelly Reynolds, Cecilia Rosales, Amanda Soka, Mohan Tanniru, Doug Taren, Terry Urbine, Marc Verhougstraete, Nicole Yuan,

Primary Faculty Absent: Paloma Beamer, Ed Bedrick, Melanie Bell, Dean Billheimer, Heather Carter, Scott Carvajal, Zhao Chen, Leslie Dennis, Kate Ellingson, Kacey Ernst, David Garcia, Joe Gerald, Eduardo González-Fagoaga, Laura Gronewold, Jennifer Hatcher, Tricia Haynes, Paul Hsu, Chengcheng Hu, Yann Klimentidis, Mary Koss, Deanna Lewis, Velia Leybas Nuño, Kimberly Lind, Priscilla Magrath, Martha Monroy, Sheila Parker, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Denise Roe, Xiaoxiao Sun, Cynthia Thomson, Jin Zhou

Other MEZCOPH Personnel Present:

Danielle Embry, Maia Ingram, Karl Krupp, John Molina, Jean McClelland, Raju Thiagarajan, Karen Tiggs, Chris Tisch

1. Review / Approval of August 14, 2020 Meeting minutes (Janet Foote)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The August 14, 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 & Amanda Soka*)
Amanda Soka is new Program Director for PHP/HSA programs.

3. MEZCOPH Web Committee Representation

Mohan Tanniru and Mark Martz have volunteered to represent faculty on the newly formed MEZCOPH Technology/Website Committee.

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

Leslie Dennis was nominated for the Faculty Assembly Chair-Elect position. No additional nominations were brought forward. A vote will be held via Qualtrics after the meeting.

5. Discussion: Proceeding with Strategic Planning for Research at MEZCOPH (*Jeff Burgess*)



RAC SWOT
Analysis_9.23.2020.d

Now that CEPH accreditation is concluded, the college will begin the strategic planning process. The Research Advisory Committee completed a SWOT analysis which resulted in a list of actions that would be useful moving forward (see attached document). Jeff asked faculty for input on additional actions we can take to prepare before the December retreat. The Mentoring Committee previously suggested that faculty meet in groups by rank to discuss opportunities for improvement.

Comments from the committee:

- Faculty generally agree discussion about research priorities should be done at the department level as well as the college level.
- Departments should review their last strategic plan to see what was accomplished before embarking on a new plan.
- Strategic planning is important and will be more meaningful if action plans lead to deliverable outcomes.
- Areas for further improvement include developing a model that provides stronger incentive for faculty to buy out of teaching and more support to manage conflicting teaching and research responsibilities. Some changes will require backing and leadership from upper administration to enact.

Jeff will ask faculty groups and departments to meet and come up with a focused list of 3-5 priorities, which will be summarized and shared at the December retreat.

6. Online Class Issues (*Janet Foote*)

According to recent surveys, students are having some difficulty with online learning, experiencing technical issues, and feeling more isolated. Janet asked if faculty had concerns about students in their classes. In addition, faculty were asked to share tips and best practices for online teaching and assessment.

Comments from the committee:

- While some students feel like they have less interaction than in a regular classroom, more students feel like they are able to interact and ask questions because of the chat feature.
- Students may need to disable pop-up blockers in order to see instructor feedback in D2L.
- Some students may be using technical difficulty as an excuse. While we must give them the benefit of the doubt, it is important to be aware that this may be going on.
- D2L maintains records of how students interact with the course site. Instructors can verify if students are actively engaging with the material.
- If students are experiencing mental health or technology issues, instructors are encouraged to let Chris Tisch know, with the student's permission, so that they may be

connected with university resources for assistance. The Dean of Students has resources available to help students with technology issues.

- A common concern among students is that the syllabus changes during the semester or contains inconsistencies. Additionally, students rely on timely feedback from instructors for their success, especially in the accelerated classes.

7. Announcements

- a. Dr. Ehiri thanked faculty for their work toward achieving CEPH accreditation. Next, he will begin working with departments to implement program changes that were accepted by CEPH.

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

Faculty agreed upon October 23rd 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*