

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting

Final Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 pm, DRACH A326

Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86255483666>

Committee Members Present: Anaiz Acosta, Kim Barnes, Heidi Brown*, Chris Cutshaw*, John Ehiri* (ex-officio), Lady Avila Elli*, Danielle Embry, Courtney Faryab, Ash Gagliano, David Garcia*, Laura Gronewold, Andrea Gaub, Paul Hsu* (chair), Nicole Johnson, Aminata Kilungo*, Bryna Koch*, Katie Lupo, Monica Muñoz, Vanessa Perez, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Michael Tearne, Gabriela Valdez*, Abba Versace, Makele White

Committee Members Absent: Luis Benitez, Lyn Durán*, Oluchi Kanma-Okafor*, Amanda Sokan*, Terry Urbine*

* voting member

Meeting Recording:

https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/oYwVFwdrh53Z_U1kjTMxTQY_hGO0_EZlyH9ZbLd7mmNvtdQiv413m9tGu1YiHr58.h5EebECBJAvL8GjR?startTime=1736369322000

• **Announcements:**

• Introductions (*Paul Hsu*)

Paul and the committee welcomed Dr. David Garcia to the committee as Interim Program Director for Health Behavior Health Promotion while Nicole Yuan is on sabbatical.

• Spring 2025 Enrollments (*Danielle Embry*)



Point in Time
Comparison Report

Danielle shared point-in-time course enrollment data for spring 2025.

• Online MPH and Undergraduate Admissions update (*Vanessa Perez, Andrea Gaub*)



Education
Committee_1.8.25_MNumbers_1.7.25.pdf



Fall 2025Admit

Vanessa shared online MPH Admissions numbers for spring 2025. Andrea shared current fall 2025 undergraduate admissions data.

Comments from the committee:

- Is there a reason we are seeing such a large increase in first year freshmen for fall 2025? Then nursing program has changed their admissions process and possibly more health science students are being placed into their second choice majors as a result. The U of A is not seeing increased admissions overall this year.

- Update on rolling admissions (*Courtney Faryab*)



MPH Admissions
Update 01.08.25.pdf

Courtney shared current MPH admissions numbers for fall 2025. We are tracking with last year and expect to see an increase in applications just before the January 15th deadline.

- **Consent Agenda:** (*All voting members*)

- Minutes Approval: December 4, 2024 meeting



2024_12_4
Education Committee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3 abstentions.

- New Course Proposals:

- GHI 6xx Benefits and Risks of AI and Automation in Health and Society (*Gabriela Valdez*)



GHI 6xx Benefits
and Risks of AI and

- GHI 6xx Design and Delivery of Participatory and Collaborative Systems (*Gabriela Valdez*)



GHI 6xx Design and
Delivery of Participatory

Dr. Valdez gave a brief overview of both courses. They are 7-week, 3-unit elective courses that could apply to our programs with faculty approval.

Comments from the committee:

- There has been concern that we have too many classes in the college, however we have few 600-level classes. Graduate students and CEPH would like more 600-level classes in our programs. These courses align with the Global Flu View platform and digital epidemiology courses we are developing in the college. The instructor's appointment is in RII and they will have an affiliate appointment in Public Health.
- Why are they 7.5 weeks? This model has proved effective to teach course competencies efficiently without students and instructors burning out on the material. All AZ Online courses are 7.5-weeks and these will be taught online.
- These courses have the potential to attract graduate students from other programs to public health.

The courses on the Consent Agenda were approved by voting members present.

- **New Business:**

- Discussion Item: AI use in the classroom (*Chris Cutshaw, All Committee Members*)

Dr. Cutshaw asked the committee to consider specific instances of AI use in which instructors would benefit from more guidance. For example, how is the Dean of Student's addressing academic integrity concerns?

Comments from the committee:

- It is a concern for the whole college, not just the Education Committee. Program Directors should discuss it in their department meetings as well.
- Many schools of public health are embracing AI and teaching students how to use it. AI detection software is not reliable which makes it challenging to hold students accountable. We should invite experts to help us understand how to manage AI in our educational programs.
- There was an incident where a student used AI on their comprehensive exam. Currently there are no policies in place to prevent this. It would be helpful to outline expectations of AI use on comprehensive exams that can be documented in the graduate handbook.
- It would be helpful to hear from experts in the public health workforce about how AI is being used. It's also important to think about the classroom contexts in which AI is useful or problematic.
- We can foster discussions with other departments on campus to see how they are approaching it. Ultimately, AI use is context dependent and it will be difficult to have a one-size-fits-all policy.
- It's important to explain to students why they should value the writing and critical thinking skills taught in the classroom.

Paul asked the committee to discuss further in their departments and report back at the next meeting.*

- Promotion of MEZCOPH certificates (*John Ehiri*)



MPH Double
Dipping Spreadsee

The college has been modifying graduate certificate policies and fees to make them accessible to students within our current programs. John shared a guide created by Mariah Albertie to assist with advising students who are interested in our certificates and encouraged faculty to share opportunities to complete certificates with their students.

Comments from the committee:

- We have eight graduate certificates in MEZCOPH.
- It would be useful to capitalize on the stackable certificate model being promoted by the Graduate College. The College of Medicine has expressed interest in using our Indigenous Health certificate toward one of their degrees.
- Admissions requirements are different for certificates and UA personnel are eligible for QTR. It would be helpful to develop an advising handout for students attending orientation.
- Would this increase faculty workload? No, most of the certificates use existing classes and it would be helpful to see enrollment increase in those that are under-enrolled.

- Discussion Item: Faculty Mentoring of Online MPH Students (*Chris Cutshaw*)



MPH Mentoring
12.4.24.pdf

Online MPH students would like more interaction with public health faculty. Dr. Cutshaw introduced a proposal to assign a faculty mentor to incoming MPH students upon admission. The faculty mentor would specifically provide professional development and career support.

The discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Paul asked Program Directors to discuss within their departments. *

Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: February 5, 2025, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Changes or corrections to the minutes may be submitted to: Danielle Embry, *Senior Coordinator, Academic and Faculty Affairs*

*** Action Items:**

- Program directors will discuss AI use in the classroom and mentoring Online MPH students with their department faculty and report results of the discussion at February's Education Committee meeting. *(All Program Directors)*