

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting
“Final Meeting Minutes”

December 2, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/215120653>

Program Directors / Voting Members Present: Ed Bedrick, Scott Carvajal, John Ehiri (ex-officio), Kacey Ernst, Joe Gerald, Velia Leybas Nuño, Amanda Sokan, Chris Tisch, Terry Urbine, Nicole Yuan

Program Directors / Voting Members Absent: Gabriela Coronel, Chris Cutshaw, Magdiel Habila, Aminata Kilungo, Kimberly York

Other Members Present: Mariah Albertie, Kim Barnes, Jen Deschenes, Danielle Embry, Melanie Fleck, Anais Garcia, Elsa Loya, Tanya Nemec, Gisela Ochoa, Adaeze Oguegbu, Samantha Pierce, Michael Tearne, Eva Wietecha, Abba Versace

Meeting Recording:

<https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/6EdDPwgXp1rTldGI4uS4mZeBJMRqLoNSCFpAfNHmAefAzET-Dez1IzAOv4qVmB4P.XBgYxKlxwileVTur>

- **Announcements:**

- Introductions

- Chris Tisch introduced Mariah Albertie, new undergraduate Academic Advisor II in OSSAA.
 - Dr. Ehiri welcomed Nicole Yuan to the committee. Dr. Yuan will be the new Program Director for HBHP.

- Changes in HPS Department (John Ehiri)

Dr. Velia Nuño will be transitioning from her position as Program Director for Family and Child Health into a new role as Director for the BA in Wellness and Health Promotion Practice. Dr. Purnima Madhivanan will be the new Program Director for Global Health and Family & Child Health. Dr. Scott Carvajal will be stepping down as Program Director for HBHP and assuming a new role as Interim Department Chair in HPS this January.

- Fall Convocation & TA's (Chris Tisch)

Chris announced that there will be fewer TA's next semester. She will be contacting Program Directors to discuss appointments and finalize hiring paperwork soon.

John, Iman, and Chris have prepared their presentations for the upcoming Fall Convocation on December 18th. There is a large cohort of graduating students from the online MPH, and 15 students graduating from the campus-based MPH. There will be a mortarboard decorating contest this year. Chris will be reaching out to Program Directors to videotape congratulatory messages for the graduates.

- Admissions Update (Chris Tisch, Eva Batista-Wietecha)



Eva and Chris will be contacting Program Directors to discuss their admissions process for the upcoming cycle. Eva reviewed the admissions report that compares numbers from this year and last. Main Campus EPI admits are down, but there is an increase in admits to the online Applied EPI program.

Comments from the committee:

- Kacey asked if Program Directors were actively recruiting new students. AZ Online does most of the marketing for the online MPH. Shipherd Reed may be able to help with recruitment post-Covid.
 - Careers in Public Health, particularly Epidemiology, are in the spotlight given Covid-19. This may be contributing to the increase in online MPH admissions but it is uncertain if it will continue.
 - OSSAA conducts online information sessions for all our programs. They are publicized to interested students and well attended.
 - In addition to recruitment, expanding holistic admissions criteria may yield a higher number of students.
- Course/Program Updates (Danielle Embry)
The Undergraduate Certificate in One Health has completed all approvals and will begin admitting students in spring 2021.

The undergraduate minor and undergraduate emphasis area in One Health were both approved by the UGC Programs Subcommittee and will advance to a full Undergraduate Council vote on 12/8. If approved there, the emphasis area will have completed all approvals but the minor will still need final approval by Faculty Senate.

The BA in Wellness and HP Practice and the Undergraduate minor in Aging will be taken up by the committees in the spring semester.

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

- Minutes Approval: November 4, 2020 meeting



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Education Committee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.
The motion was approved by a vote of: 7-0

- **New Business:**

- Academic Competencies 2019-20 Report (Jen Deschenes)



a. Academic
Competencies 2019-



Academic
Competencies 2019-

Jen gave an overview of the 2019-20 Academic Competencies report.

Comments from the committee:

- It would be helpful to separate online and campus-based students to compare the results.

- Students are surveyed mid-career, at graduation and as alumni. The survey will be updated with the new competencies for spring 2021 graduates and alumni responses will eventually be linked to the report.
- This is useful data for Program Directors to share with departmental faculty, especially those who teach classes that are correlated with the competencies.
- Post-CEPH, our syllabi now include competency and assessment information for each class, which may help to reinforce the importance of these competencies with students. When new courses are submitted, it is an opportunity for Education Committee to review for competency and assessment information as well.
- The core MPH competency that addresses qualitative and quantitative data analysis is low. Students may not be learning enough qualitative data methods within the 5 core MPH courses.
- Students may rate themselves higher in a competency because they think they *should* know it. The gap can be addressed by comparing assessment data with student survey responses. Jen will help to match these data sets if the Program Directors provide them. Kacey suggested we continue the discussion on methods to validate student's self-reported data at a future meeting. *

Dr. Ehiri and Danielle will map courses to each competency in the report and share at the next Education Committee meeting. *

- Discussion: Modified Admissions Criteria for Health Services Administration (Terry Urbine)
Health Services Administration faculty have approved several changes to their admissions criteria for the MPH. Students must meet the following:

- 1) A bachelor's degree with a minimum gpa of 3.0
- 2) A course in college algebra or calculus
- 3) Two letters of recommendation
- 4) CV or resume
- 5) Statement of purpose and objectives, mission values statement

GRE or MCAT exams scores have been waived and they no longer require three years of relevant work/volunteer experience. Terry asked committee members to provide feedback on waiving work experience.

Comments from the Committee:

- FCH added work/volunteer experience to their admissions criteria when they waived the GRE.
- Work experience is not a requirement for PHPM but marginal students may be disqualified if they do not have it.
- HBHP has a broad definition of work experience which could include undergraduate and volunteer experiences, etc.

- Proposed Undergraduate Minor in Global Health (John Ehiri)



c. Undergraduate
Minor in Global Hea

Dr. Ehiri announced that we are developing an undergraduate minor in Global Health to capitalize on the strengths in our college and attract undergraduate students who may be interested in pursuing Global Health at the master's level. A draft proposal has been prepared and we are waiting on a final budget from the finance office.

- Significant changes to BS in Public Health (Melanie Fleck, John Ehiri)



d. Significant
changes to BS in Pul

New programs are being developed across campus (ie. BS in Medicine, Care Health & Society, etc.) that are competing with Public Health for enrollment. We need to be strategic by creating new programs and revising our current undergraduate degree to remain competitive on campus.

Melanie reviewed the changes being proposed for the BS in Public Health:

- 1) Remove the Pre-Major and replace it with an Advanced Standing process. Advanced Standing requires students to achieve a gpa and complete foundation coursework before they are eligible to enroll in upper level classes. Differential tuition charges will apply to students once they achieve Advanced Standing.
- 2) The science requirements will now consist of three courses: a) Introductory Biology, b) one semester of lab-based chemistry, and c) a selective science
- 3) The physiology requirement will become an optional selective science and HPS 405 Biology in Public Health will become a required course.
- 4) Change the required admissions gpa from a 2.5 to 2.0 in order to align with other health science programs on campus and retain more students.

Comments from the committee:

- Is it necessary to require both HPS 405 and an introductory biology course?
 - There may be value in exploring opportunities for dual majors with Public Health and a complimentary program.
- Significant changes to MS in Biostatistics (*Ed Bedrick*)
The current MS program requires 39 credits and a thesis. The department is proposing a reduction in required units to 33 with an optional thesis in order to align with comparable programs at other universities. In addition, required courses will be grouped into categories to help students understand skills they will obtain in the program.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: January 6, 2021 - 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

***Action Items:**

- (carried over from September meeting) Laura Gronewold will inquire about GE pilot program data with the General Education Refresh Committee. She will report back findings at a future meeting. (*Laura Gronewold*)
- (carried over from November meeting) Dr. Ehiri will investigate the MPH competencies/assessment in Taskstream and report back at the January/February Education Committee. (*John Ehiri*)
- (carried over from November meeting) Dr. Ehiri will check on UA's acquisition of Ashford to determine if/how their students may be admitted to our programs. He will report findings at a future meeting (*John Ehiri*)
- Dr. Ehiri and Danielle will map courses to each competency in the 2019-20 Academic Competencies report and share at the next Education Committee meeting. (*John Ehiri, Danielle Embry*)
- Danielle will carry forward suggested agenda items for the next meeting. (*Danielle Embry*)