

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting
“Final Meeting Minutes”

November 3, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86894771259>

Program Directors / Voting Members Present: Ed Bedrick, Chris Cutshaw, Andre Dickerson, John Ehiri (ex-officio), Joe Gerald, Aminata Kilungo, Velia Leybas Nuño, Amanda Soka, Terry Urbine, Gabriela Valdez, Nicole Yuan

Program Directors / Voting Members Absent: Kacey Ernst, Magdiel Habila

Other Members Present: Mariah Albertie, Kim Barnes, Danielle Embry, Melanie Fleck, Laura Gronewold, Tanya Nemec, Samantha Pierce, Maggie Pitts, Liz Sandoval,

Meeting Recording: https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/dEAKvYDdNAXHBXk-tnsY7xGtAptnEC7idI5fjTcwiNOCHnMmhr2C7HES_FIPVF17.K3cjLn5esLlxd9AI?startTime=1635972900000

- **Special Presentation:**

- Stackable Certificates (*Maggie Pitts, Liz Sandoval*)

Liz Sandoval and Maggie Pitts gave a brief overview of stackable certificates. Master's degree requirements can be broken up into smaller segments, each with a set of courses leading to the completion of a graduate certificate. It is a way for master's students to achieve a credential prior to graduation as well as a pipeline for certificate students to complete a master's.

Two or three certificates can be combined to make up a master's degree. Stacking certificates in more than one discipline allows for flexible curricular design and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The graduate college has changed its policy to allow all certificate units to apply toward another graduate degree if the graduate degree program agrees and accepts them. Units may be double-used but not triple-used across programs.

Comments from the committee:

- If a student completes two certificates that lead to a master's degree, how are they awarded the master's degree? The student still needs to apply and be accepted into the master's program. It is the department's prerogative to accept and apply the certificate courses toward master's degree requirements. The student would also need to complete any deficiencies required for the master's (ie thesis, missing core coursework etc.)
 - Michael Tearne has been evaluating how our certificate requirements relate to our graduate programs.
 - How are interdisciplinary collaborations forged and will the graduate college facilitate connections? Martha Whitaker is heading up the creation of stackable certificates as part of the 21st Century Master's Program initiative and is available to help make those connections. Colleges can pursue opportunities to stack certificates within their own programs as well.
 - It was asked how returning students may take advantage of this opportunity if they completed a certificate more than 6 years ago and coursework has expired. There is a process in place for departments accept expired coursework based on an assessment of the student's retained knowledge and understanding of current trends in the field.

- Our graduate certificates charge additional fees per unit. If a student knows they want to complete the master's, it will be less expensive for them to apply to the master's initially rather than complete a combination of certificates.
 - Students can currently transfer all 15-units from the Public Health Certificate and the Health Services Administration Certificate into the MPH program.
 - All of our graduate certificates are under-enrolled and the college is looking for ways to make certificates more marketable.
- 21st Century Masters' Project (*Maggie Pitts*)



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Century Masters' Prc

Maggie Pitts gave an overview of the 21st Century Master's Project. The goal is to elevate awareness of the value that professional master's degrees provide to students as they prepare to enter the workforce (see slides for details).

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

- Minutes Approval: October 6, 2021 meeting



2021_10_6
Education Committe

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.
The motion was approved by a vote of: 10-0

- **New Business:**

- Discussion Item: Overlap and Double Use of Courses across MEZCOPH Programs (*Melanie Fleck*)



MEZCOPH_UGProgr
ams_Double Dippin

Melanie shared a spreadsheet demonstrating how undergraduate minors, majors, and certificates in the college overlap. The current policy in the college is that a maximum of 6 units may be double used. As new programs are developed and current programs are modified, Melanie is available to consult on opportunities to build in double-dipping as an incentive to declare more than one MEZCOPH degree. Comments from the committee:

- Michael Tearne is working on a similar document for graduate level programs.
- As faculty develop new programs across the college, it is helpful to engage Michael, Melanie, Tanya, Sam and Kim in the early stages so we can be thoughtful about how new programs interface with our current programs.

- Discussion Item: Mid-term Course Evaluations (*Chris Cutshaw*)



Proposal Early
Online Course Eval.

Chris Cutshaw shared a draft proposal to re-institute a mid-term course feedback system for the online MPH. The college had a mid-course evaluation process in the past but it was discontinued. Concerns have been raised about some courses in the online program and it would be helpful to have a system that provides brief, actionable feedback to the instructor (see attached proposal for details).

Comments from the committee:

- Chris Tisch attempted a similar process in the past but it was not successful. Students did not participate and it was difficult for instructors to implement changes for everyone in the class based on feedback from a small minority of students. It is important to be thoughtful about how administrative oversight and interventions are administered when they are based on a system that is new and not validated.
- Questions should be specific to the course in order to get useful feedback.
- It would be helpful to include in the messaging to students that the first point of contact for a concern about the course, at any point in the semester, is the instructor.
- One successful method of collecting feedback is an anonymous “one-minute evaluation” given to students at the beginning of each week for the first three weeks of the semester. It consists of questions related to what the instructor can do more of, do less of, and suggestions for improving the class. Students need to understand *why* they are completing this survey and its value for their learning experience.
- The online MPH courses are accelerated and ‘pre-built’ in D2L. The challenges associated with this type of instruction are unique. It would be helpful for Chris to reach out at the beginning of the semester and let students know that she is available if instructional issues arise.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: December 1, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

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