

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting
“Final Meeting Minutes”

April 7, 2021

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

Program Directors / Voting Members Present: Ed Bedrick, John Ehiri (ex-officio), Kacey Ernst, Joe Gerald, Magdiel Habila, Aminata Kilungo, Purnima Madhivanan, Amanda Sokan, Chris Tisch, Terry Urbine, Gabriela Valdez, Nicole Yuan

Program Directors / Voting Members Absent: Gabriela Coronel, Chris Cutshaw, Velia Leybas Nuño

Other Members Present: Mariah Alberty, Kim Barnes, Eva Batista-Wietecha, Jen Deschenes, Danielle Embry, Melanie Fleck, Tanya Nemec, Gisela Ochoa, Adaeze Oguebu, Samantha Pierce, Michael Tearne,

Meeting Recording:

https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/EjEqy6ngdip1NoSC81oT4q9wJbmVGvwg_7CbfZJYjevSYffunxLOU1_VHpdC3i0O.CPskUgoTfmg8KuCM

- **Announcements:**

- New Program Updates (*Danielle Embry*)



New Programs
Update 4_7_2021.pdf

Danielle gave an update on the status and recent approvals of new program proposals.

Comments from the committee:

- There was a question about what changes were submitted for the BS in Public Health. Danielle and Melanie Fleck reviewed the three main changes, 1) a change to the science requirements, 2) removal of the pre-major and establishment of an ‘Advanced Standing’ process, and 3) the required gpa for admission to the professional major is being changed from 2.5 to 2.0.
 - May Convocation Updates (*Chris Tisch*)
The spring commencement will occur on May 12th at 6:00pm. MEZCOPH is sharing the event with UA South and the undergraduate Physiology program, with a centralized RSVP system. There will be approximately five minutes for our deans to speak and our students to walk the stage. Students are allowed to invite four guests and it will be contactless (i.e. no hooding). Students must be vaccinated or test negatively for COVID the day before the ceremony. The university is requiring us to invite all students who graduated last December, this May/August, and next December. Information about how faculty may participate is forthcoming.
 - Gen Ed Refresh Updates (*John Ehiri*)
John announced that the university is seeking gen ed courses to offer under a soft launch of the General Education curriculum in spring 2022. A Qualtrics survey was sent to all the academic deans asking for a list of gen ed courses that may apply. John will complete the survey, making available the following

courses:

- HPS 150C1 Developments in Disease and Public Health, Chris Cutshaw
- PHP 150C1 Aging - Everyone is Doing It!, Amanda Sokan
- HPS 300 Public Health in the 21st Century, Aminata Kilungo
- PHPM 310 Health Care in the U.S., Joe Gerald
- HPS 387 Health Disparities & Minority Health, Martha Monroy

The committee will choose courses from the lists and contact faculty for a Gen Ed Refresh training. All the materials associated with the new Gen Ed program, including learning outcomes, are available and will be shared in the Education Committee box folder. *

Comments from the committee:

- The Gen Ed Refresh program met strong opposition at Faculty Senate. An ad-hoc committee has been formed to work with the Gen Ed Refresh team to address some of the concerns. It is still expected to be approved.
- It was asked if course prefixes and numbers will change with the new program. Dr. Ehiri responded that they are expected to remain the same.

- Nutritional Sciences Name Change (John Ehiri)

Nutritional Sciences, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is changing from a department to a school and has proposed their name as the School of Integrated Wellness and Nutrition. Concerns have been raised by MEZCOPH and other colleges (i.e. Integrative Medicine) about including “Integrated Wellness” in their name. The objection revolves around the implications of a school trademarking ‘wellness’ when many colleges use the term ‘wellness’ to market their programs across the university. This could lead to confusion among external constituents and students about which pathways they should follow. Additionally, if the name change goes forward, it may make it easier for them to develop public health courses because they are aligned with integrative wellness themes. A subcommittee has been formed to review the name change in more depth and make recommendations to the Provost.

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

- Minutes Approval: March 3, 2021 meeting



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Committee Meeting

- Proposed New Courses:

- PHP 4xx/5xx Health Profession Finance (Terry Urbine)



PHP 4xx 5xx Health
Profession Finance.c

- EPID/BIOS 452/552 Health Data Analysis and Communication Methods (Kacey Ernst)



BIOS452_552 Health
Data Analysis and C

- PHP 4xx/5xx Optimizing Well-being and Resilience for Older Adults (*Amanda Sokan*)



PHP 4xx_5xx
Optimizing Wellbeir

- PHP 4xx/5xxA Public Health Approach to Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias (*Amanda Sokan*)



PHP 4xx_5xx Public
Health Approach to

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.
The motion was approved by a vote of: 9-2 abstentions

- **Old Business:**

- Taskstream Assessment Reporting Update (*Jen Deschenes*)



MPH-Biostatistics-D
irect Assess.docx

Jen met with OIA to discuss some of the challenges that have been raised by the Program Directors. She recommended that we go ahead and submit all the 2019/2020 assessments, even if they do not contain any direct measures. A statement will be included that recognizes deficiencies and outlines specific targets for improvement during the next reporting cycle. Jen will submit the 2019/2020 assessments for all programs.

In order to improve our assessment process for the 2020/2021 cycle, we need to develop direct measures for each program. Jen will be sharing templates with the Program Directors to assist with this process * (see attached example). The templates help to define direct measures and how data will be collected. As Program Director roles change and faculty retire, etc., it will be beneficial to create a sustainable system for data collection that is centrally housed.

Comments from the committee:

- It was asked if Program Directors needed to input the template data into Taskstream themselves. Jen will input this data on their behalf.
- Historically, the MPH assessment has been submitted by the college. It will still be a college-level responsibility, but faculty input is requested to outline appropriate measures for each concentration.
- While we must assess our programs for both CEPH and UA, the expectations for each organization is different. CEPH requires us to assess multiple competencies at the MPH level, however OIA may not need us to collect assessment data on all of them.

- **New Business:**

- Proposed Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Health (*John Ehiri*)



New Academic
Program Additional

John reviewed the proposed certificate in Indigenous Health. It is an initiative coming from Public Health Practice & Translational Research and incorporates courses that are already developed by faculty with expertise in this area. John invited the committee to comment and provide suggestions for improvement.

Comments from the committee:

- It was asked if a vote on the certificate by the committee was necessary. Historically, new programs, including certificates, have required committee vote to move forward to UA approvals.
- The certificate will be offered online and in-person and will follow the same tuition model as other certificates.
- It is desirable to map certificates to our master's degrees for students interested in further study. This may be something to consider moving forward.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Health.
The motion was approved by a vote of: 8-0**

- **Graduate Admission Decision Timeline** (*John Ehiri*)

The Provost recently announced that colleges are taking too long to admit students into graduate programs. MEZCOPH has one of the longest timelines from application to admission. John invited discussion on the topic.

Comments from the committee:

- Admissions decisions are made as quickly as possible. John and Chris Cutshaw have been reviewing and admitting students to the MPH within a week of receiving the completed SOPHAS application.
- OSSAA already previews graduate applications for several concentrations.
- Students must complete two applications, SOPHAS and GradApp. Often students will complete SOPHAS, be admitted, and still have an incomplete GradApp, which needs to be finished for acceptance by the Graduate College. Provost Folks is reviewing GradApp timelines only which does not provide full data on our application turnaround.
- It is important that we formulate a response to the Provost, and perhaps the Dean, outlining our process and explaining the unique challenges we have as a college.

- **Other Business and Reminders:** (*All Committee Members*)

- Joe Gerald announced that the proposed new BS in Medicine met strong opposition at Faculty Senate. The College of Science voiced concern that the curriculum overlaps significantly with their degrees. If approved, there may be issues with attracting pre-med students to undergraduate health sciences degrees. Additionally, it is not clear what career tracks may be available to students completing this major. An ad-hoc subcommittee was formed to review concerns over the proposed degree program in more detail.

Comments from the committee:

- Outside the U.S., a BS in Medicine is the credential needed to practice medicine. Students may complete the degree here and think they have the expertise to be a physician.
 - There is support for this program by upper administration. Peer institutions are developing undergraduate pre-med degrees to align curriculum more closely with admission to a professional medical school.
 - Students who are interested in medical school benefit from completing undergraduate degrees in the social sciences and public health as it makes them a more well-rounded applicant.
- Chris Tisch and Eva Batista-Wietecha shared a recent admissions report. There is a 20% increase in total applications submitted. The deadline to apply was April 1st. There are many applications to review and they are making an effort to recruit undecided students.



Comments from the committee:

- The SOPHAS dashboard provides a useful snapshot of admissions numbers for Program Directors.
- Fall registration started this week. This is an incentive for students to accept their admission so that they may enroll in classes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: May 5, 2021 - 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

***Action Items:**

- Danielle will collect Gen Ed refresh documents from Dr. Ehiri and share them in the Education Committee box folder (*Danielle Embry, John Ehiri*)
- Danielle will send out Direct Assessment Templates to all Program Directors. Program Directors will complete the templates and return them in May-June. (*Danielle Embry, Jen Deschenes, All Program Directors*)