



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting
“Final Meeting Minutes”

June 1, 2022

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, Velia Leybas Nuño, Amanda Sokan, Terry Urbine, Gabriela Valdez, Nicole Yuan

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

Other Members Present: Mariah Alberty, Kim Barnes, Gisela Cardenas, Jen Deschenes, Danielle Embry, Melanie Fleck, Elsa Loya, Christy Lynch, Ryan Maldonado, Tanya Nemec, Samantha Pierce,

Guests: Doug Campos-Outcalt, Christine Girard

Meeting Recording:

https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/dZ_CBMMIIVpD4Nmge3FyUK4iqKDunfLIbehfG9PagnNZdaxGHupdwIgMzbknSmZT.3KOrH8Z3XD7aGA-

• **Announcements:**

• Spring 2023 Open Scheduling (Danielle Embry)

The UA has opened room and course scheduling for the spring 2023 semester. Program Directors are asked to review the draft spring schedule and send updates to Danielle by the end of July. *

• Education Committee Meeting Format (Danielle Embry)

Danielle asked committee members if they wanted to continue meeting via zoom next academic year or resume in-person meetings with zoom option.

Comments from the committee:

- Zoom is convenient.
- Either format is fine but hybrid meetings tend to be less inclusive of online attendees. We would need to be more disciplined with a mixed format.
- Phoenix participants had difficulty hearing the conversation during in-person meetings previously held in Drachman Hall. Zoom-only meetings are a better experience for remote attendees.

Committee members agreed to continue meeting via Zoom next year.

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

• Minutes Approval: May 4, 2022 meeting



2022_5_4 Education
Committee Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.
The motion was approved by a vote of: 8-0

Comments from the committee:

- Some student comments from the last meeting are not reflected in the minutes. The committee agreed to approve the minutes pending requested changes. They do not need to review minutes again prior to final approval. *

- **Old Business:**

- Discussion Item: Student Experience in CPH 580 - Competencies (John Ehiri)



580 Competencies
to add to courses.docx

Dr. Ehiri asked Doug Campos-Outcalt and Christine Girard to provide a set of competencies that could be included and assessed in the MPH core courses so that students are better prepared for CPH 580. The competencies incorporate some of the challenges students are experiencing in relation to critical appraisal of scholarly resources and analyzing research literature.

Comments from the committee:

- It would be helpful to work with Christine to craft assignments that will reinforce student's knowledge throughout the MPH curriculum.
- The competencies are comprehensive and not easily incorporated into a single lecture. Multiple instructors share the teaching load for our core curriculum. We may reduce complexity by designing an assignment with clear expectations that addresses the competencies and could be standardized across all core courses.
- Rather than creating new competencies for the MPH, it would be more efficient to cross-reference and align them with our existing competencies. The assignment could still be used to assess one or two of the current competencies.
- It will be important to identify which classes in the MPH are already covering these competencies so that students experience reinforcement of the concepts in 580. In addition, we must systematically review if/how students are already taught these concepts in the core MPH courses.
- It may be useful and efficient to create online modules that faculty can incorporate into their classes and that can be made available for later review outside a given class (ie, on the Hub). Jean McClelland and other AHSL librarians may have developed some videos on key topics that could be used. The library resources are under-utilized by online MPH course instructors.
- Christine is working with ODL to improve how course concepts are presented and framed in the class.
- MPH Coordinators can emphasize the importance of these competencies in their conversations with students.
- It is critical that we document these efforts toward program improvement as part of our annual assessment activities in Taskstream.
- Students self-evaluate their level of competence in the competencies during their Annual Progress Report and Exit Survey.
- It will be helpful to intentionally create connections that address specific skills throughout the entire MPH program. Online MPH students will especially benefit from this as they do not have the opportunity to learn through casual conversations with their instructors and peers.
- When students take the 580 capstone, they are juggling multiple courses and outside commitments to family and jobs which makes the group work difficult to coordinate. It may be more effective and produce better outcomes if we focused our efforts on designing the course workload and group assignments to make them more manageable for students.
- It is valuable to wholistically review the MPH program and may have the added benefit of working together to understand the needs of all our programs in the process.

Dr. Ehiri organized a committee comprised of himself, Christine Girard, Chris Cutshaw, Ed Bedrick, Jen Deschenes, and Nicole Yuan to review what has been discussed regarding CPH 580 and make recommendations for improvement changes.

The topic will remain on the agenda for upcoming meetings so that the committee may receive updates and continue the discussion. *

New Business:

- Discussion Item: Internship Conference Modality/Semesters (*Kim Barnes*)

The MPH Coordinators propose moving the Internship Conference to a permanent virtual event with an integrated live online celebration during the fall, spring and summer sessions. The proposed format would be more consistent and inclusive of all our student populations, regardless of campus.

Attendance in the in-person event waned significantly prior to switching to the virtual space and it was difficult to engage students in planning the in-person event.

Comments from the committee:

- In residence students have expressed that they miss the in-person interactions these kinds of events provide. Have there been efforts to solicit student feedback about this change? Students have not been surveyed and there have been no complaints so far. The only students who had difficulty with the virtual format were spring 2020 graduates who expected it to be in person and had to quickly shift to an online presentation.
- Some faculty prefer their students record a live presentation to their committee and preceptors. Departments can incentivize face-to-face interactions by requiring live presentations, either in person or on zoom, and providing a link to the recording on the Internship Conference website.
- Our dual degree students in Ajman and our online MPH students have limited opportunities to engage with the college and they appreciate being included in events like these.
- We are applying for funding and hope to modernize the technology in A114, 116, and 118 to facilitate more real-time events with online and global students.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal to permanently change the Internship Conference to a virtual event during the fall, spring, and summer sessions. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Faculty are encouraged to reach out to the MPH Coordinators if they have feedback or ideas for the live virtual event, or if they would like a student to be spotlighted.

- **Future Business:**

The two remaining agenda items were carried over to the August meeting.

- Discussion Item: Potential Changes to MD/MPH Tucson Curriculum/Programs (*Joe Gerald*)
- Discussion Item: Creating safe space in the classroom to discuss tragic events (*Kacey Ernst*)

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: August 3, 2022 , 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

***Action Items:**

- Program Directors will review the spring 2023 schedule and send Danielle updates/changes by July 25, 2022. (*All Program Directors, Danielle Embry*)

- Danielle will follow up with Velia Nuño to ensure missing student comments are included in the May 4, 2022 minutes. (*Danielle Embry, Velia Nuño*)
- The ad hoc committee to review CPH 580 will evaluate how students are learning key competencies in the MPH program and make recommendations to improve student outcomes by the end of the fall 2022 semester. As needed, they will provide updates and solicit feedback from the Education Committee during upcoming Education Committee meetings. (*John Ehiri, Christine Girard, Chris Cutshaw, Ed Bedrick, Jen Deschenes, Nicole Yuan*)

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