

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting

“Final Meeting Minutes”

February 1, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86255483666>

Program Directors / Voting Members Present: Ed Bedrick, Chris Cutshaw, John Ehiri (ex-officio), Lauren Erdelyi, Kacey Ernst, Aminata Kilungo, Velia Nuño, Derek Smith, Amanda Soka, Chris Tisch, Terry Urbine, Nicole Yuan

Program Directors / Voting Members Absent: Leila Barazza, Christopher Lessenich, Amaka Okpara-Oguadimma, Niraly Patel, Gabriela Valdez

Other Members Present: Anaiz Acosta, Mariah Albertie, Kim Barnes, Jen Deschenes, Danielle Embry, Courtney Faryab, Melanie Fleck, Laura Gronewold, Katie Lupo, Monica Munoz, Tanya Nemec, Samantha Pierce, Kristen Pogreba Brown

Meeting Recording:

https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/xcmr1OJYsJz2mA12C83vLPUI5bxVbvFvjDJJw6eK_j9siqWwEbmagqoQWKkxEz-.YRMAvepFWh2KJOwZ?startTime=1675285080000

Dr. Urbine established quorum. Eight voting members were present.

Announcements:

- Introductions (*Chris Tisch*)
Chris Tisch introduced Anaiz Acosta, Senior Coordinator for Recruitment in OSA. Anaiz is an alum of the MEZCOPH BS program and joins the college from the Arizona Youth Partnership. Monica Munoz has joined OSA as the new Administrative Assistant.

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

- Minutes Approval: January 11, 2023 meeting



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Education Committee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.

- **Old Business:**

- Follow up on TA Assignments and Rolling Admissions (*John Ehiri*)



Proposed Policy - Strategic Rolling
Teaching Assistants Admissions_11-3-FIN

Dr. Ehiri invited discussion and feedback on the newly adopted policies for TA assignments and rolling admissions review.

Comments from the committee:

- The rolling admissions review is going well but it will take time to develop an efficient process.
- Epidemiology has two reviewers for the entire admissions cycle. HPS, BIOS and PHPPTR are rotating teams of two faculty appx. every two weeks.
- Using Box for admissions reviews has been more efficient and made applications easier to track.
- PHPPTR reviewers met as a group to discuss the review process and what the department is looking for in an applicant. This conversation helped to establish consistency among multiple reviewers.
- Faculty expressed some concern that there are fewer, less qualified applicants than in previous years. It will be helpful to review admissions numbers at the next Education Committee meeting.
- 44 applications across all programs were assigned last week. According to the ASPPH data center, all SOPHAS applications were down 11% and MEZCOPH applications were down 20% in 21-22: https://data.aspph.org/auth/sign_in
- The deans are working to standardize the messaging that goes out to accepted students and provide monetary incentives for accepting admission.
- The notification process is still being worked out. OSA recommends admission in SOPHAS then admission is confirmed by the Graduate College. Once confirmed, OSA initiates contact. If they do not receive a reply from the student, ambassadors, then faculty, would be asked to reach out.
- Dr. Ehiri can work with the graduate college to eliminate bottlenecks and ensure a smooth admissions process.
- The deans are currently working out funding for doctoral students. Recruitment strategies include offering doctoral students GRA positions within the department and creating a list of alternate admits if top choices do not accept. The college may be able to provide additional support for top ranking candidates.

- **New Business:**

- Course Enrollments (*John Ehiri*)



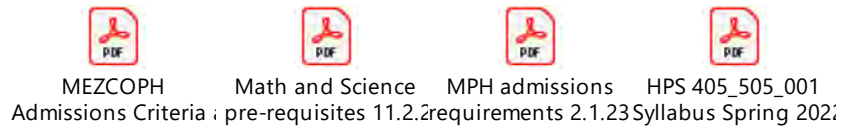
Spring 2023
Enrollments.pdf

Dr. Ehiri announced that enrollments are slightly down from last year. He encouraged faculty to develop Gen Ed courses and has a list of 11 courses in the college that will be submitted for Gen Ed approval in the spring.

Comments from the committee:

- The University Wide General Education Committee asks faculty to participate in a Quick Start training workshop and prepare course proposal materials in the workshop, including a Gen Ed proposal form and course syllabus. The course proposal will then be routed through regular curriculum channels as any new course.
- UA will begin accepting new Gen Ed proposals in March. The college deadline for new spring 2024 Gen Ed proposals is the August Education Committee.

- Gen Ed courses provide opportunities for recruitment into our undergraduate programs. OSA staff (Melanie and Anaiz) are available for classroom visits to educate students about public health programs.
- Fall 2024 Application Changes (Courtney Faryab, Chris Cutshaw)



Courtney will be making changes in SOPHAS for the next admissions cycle in April. She will send out a reminder to all Program Directors, requesting admissions updates before the deadline.

Chris prepared a power point comparing MPH admissions requirements across top ranked universities and asked faculty to review it prior to the next meeting.* She asked the committee to consider whether we would allow students to be admitted to the MPH with the understanding that they must complete any prerequisites by the time they matriculate.

If the committee decides to keep the science prerequisite, it would be helpful to provide students with specific courses they can take to satisfy the prerequisite and a rationale for why these courses will help them be successful in the MPH.

Comments from the committee:

- The Dean's Council and all department chairs have voted to permanently remove the GRE from the MPH admissions criteria. Dr. Ehiri asked what additional information is needed for the Education Committee to make a decision regarding the GRE.
- Epidemiology applicants without a strong quantitative background in their transcripts may benefit from the option of submitting a GRE score to support their application. Other universities are making the GRE optional for this reason.
- It is important to be clear with students whether the GRE is required or not. Optional GRE criteria will be confusing for applicants.
- In the BS program, students are required to take a biology course that includes a genetics component. This prepares them for advanced public health courses that discuss genetics research.

Dr. Ehiri and Dr. Cutshaw will prepare a proposal regarding MPH admissions requirements for the committee to vote on in March.*

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: March 1, 2023 , 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

***Action Items:**

- Program Directors will review admissions criteria for their programs and let Courtney know if they have any updates. Courtney will send out a reminder before the deadline. (All Program Directors, Courtney Faryab)
- Committee members will review MPH admissions information prepared by Chris Cutshaw before March meeting: <https://arizona.app.box.com/file/1129000539423>. (All Committee Members)

- Dr. Ehiri and Dr. Cutshaw will prepare a proposal regarding MPH admissions requirements for the committee to vote on in March. (*John Ehiri, Chris Cutshaw*)
- (carried over from Oct meeting) John Ehiri will modify the Education Committee bylaws to allow for the One Health program to have a vote and increase flexibility for growth in our academic programs. (*John Ehiri*)
- (carried over from Nov meeting) John and Danielle will follow up with Jing Liu to schedule an in-depth discussion of the AIB model on the Education Committee agenda in early spring semester. (*John Ehiri, Danielle Embry*)

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