

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting

“Final Meeting Minutes”

March 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, Velia Nuño, Amanda Soka, Terry Urbine, Gabriela Valdez, Nicole Yuan

Program Directors / Voting Members Absent: Leila Barazza, Aminata Kilungo, Christopher Lessenich, Amaka Okpara-Oguadimma, Niraly Patel, Derek Smith, Chris Tisch

Other Members Present: Anaiz Acosta, Kim Barnes, Jen Deschenes, Danielle Embry, Courtney Faryab, Melanie Fleck, Laura Gronewold, Nicole Johnson, Katie Lupo, Tanya Nemec, Samantha Pierce, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Michael Tearne, Abba Versace

Guests: Jean McClelland, Assistant Librarian, AHS Library

Meeting Recording: https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/PjqVesete2ioj-f74lPzdF_p0N1VwzluKSfqfduvCVnkMrbL_GbQcJs8GkMSnf30.VMHcuaFyASXX20Fo

Announcements:

- DEI Updates (*Velia Nuño*)

Dr. Nuño provided an update on DEI activities. CIE meetings will resume on March 3rd at 10-11am via Zoom. All staff and faculty are welcome to participate.

- Racial Justice Toolkit (*Jean McClelland*)

Jean provided a link to the Racial Justice Toolkit:

<https://libguides.library.arizona.edu/racial-justice-public-health/overview>

The toolkit is a resource page located on the UA library website that includes a variety of social justice resources centering on public health. New resources are continually added and faculty/staff can suggest resources via this webform:

<https://libguides.library.arizona.edu/racial-justice-public-health/suggest>

Comments from the committee:

- Why is it called Intern Toolkit on the agenda? Interns helped to develop and organize the resource page.
 - It was asked if an email has been sent out to the College of Public Health letting people know about the toolkit. It has been highlighted at several meetings but they have not sent out a college-wide announcement. Jean will discuss it with CIE on Friday and draft a communication strategy with the group.
 - I-SNAC events/activities, Evaluation Results from First Generation screening (*Nicole Yuan*)

I-SNAC (Inclusivity Sessions to Activate Community) have been in existence for several

years. It originated out of the solidarity statement signed by faculty and staff acknowledging the need for more college-wide DEI efforts. They have coordinated book discussions, article readings, and recently a film screening of First Generation. Participants at the film screening were surveyed about their experience. People found the film and discussion to be very useful. For future events, they are interested in Brown Bag sessions, films and presentations. Early evening is a popular time.

Comments from the committee:

- Granting extra credit to students who participate in I-SNAC events may encourage more participation.

- Admissions Update (*Courtney Faryab*)



Campus Admission
Dashboard 03.01.23

Courtney shared current MEZCOPH admissions data. Numbers are tracking with last year and faculty are reviewing applicants quickly. They have reached out to admitted students with a response form, scholarship and assistantship applications. A post-admissions recruitment plan, which involves asking faculty to reach out to potential students, is being finalized.

Comments from the committee:

- What incentives are being offered to potential students to increase the yield? They are still working on a finalized plan. Grad ambassadors are reaching out to all applicants as an initial point of contact.

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

- Minutes Approval: February 1, 2023 meeting



2023_2_1 Education
Committee Meeting

- New Course Proposals:

- BIOS 682 Introduction to Genomic Data Science (*Ed Bedrick*)



BIOS 682
Introduction to Gen

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

- **Old Business:**

- Discussion Item: Proposed Changes to MPH Admissions Criteria (*Chris Cutshaw*)
 - Permanently omitting the GRE requirement

A vote to permanently remove the GRE from the MPH admission criteria was held via Qualtrics after the February meeting. **The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.**

Comments from the committee:

- o Program Directors should inform faculty in their departments about this change to MPH admissions criteria, as well as any future decisions by the Education Committee.
 - o We need to update the website, SOPHAS, and the graduate college with this new information.
- Edits of Math and Biology requirements



MEMO Math
Science prereq. 3.1.2



Math and Science
pre-requisites 11.2.2

Dr. Cutshaw reviewed the proposed changes to math/science prerequisites for MPH admissions with the committee and discussed the rationale for the change. Chris asked Program Directors to discuss the proposal with department faculty and provide feedback to her by March 31.*

Comments from the committee:

- o If EPI wants to include a math prerequisite for students applying to Epidemiology programs, would that still be allowable? The proposal, as written, would eliminate math & science prereqs for the MPH application and replace it with a statement that asks students to describe their quantitative reasoning ability. Programs may set individual internal guidelines for evaluating the applicant's statement and admit only students that meet their criteria.
- o Every MPH student is required to take BIOS 576A, which has a prerequisite of 1 year of college mathematics. The implicit assumption of approving this policy is that the prerequisite for BIOS 576A will change.
- o If we no longer require a minimum math requirement for the MPH, will the college provide additional support for students who struggle in this area? Faculty in BIOS may be supportive if college provides sufficient tutoring.
- o If the proposal is adopted, it is important to be transparent about what makes a competitive candidate in each concentration so that potential applicants have accurate information before applying.
- o MPH programs are competing for students and many highly rated schools do not require the same math and science requirements. The challenge is to draft competitive admissions criteria without compromising the quality of our students and programs.

• New Business:

- Action Item: Proposed MPH Emphasis in Population Aging and Long-term Care (Amanda Sokan)



Proposed
MPH-Pop.Age_LTC. (

Dr. Sokan introduced a proposed new MPH emphasis area in Population Aging and Long-term Care (LTC). The field of public health has been slow to include LTC workers as part of the public health workforce. The COVID pandemic demonstrated an urgent need for additional public health training in this area.

Comments from the committee:

- Dr. Kate Ellingson has been working in LTC facilities during the pandemic. Dr. Sokan will contact her to collaborate.

- Dr. Sokan would like to launch the emphasis in fall 2023 if possible. There are multiple new programs across campus related to aging and it is important to establish one in public health.
- The intention is to utilize MEZCOPH courses that already exist for the emphasis and attract a different type of student to the MPH program.
- Nursing students may find this emphasis attractive. It might be useful to create a minor as well that will complement the nursing curriculum. MEZCOPH offers an undergraduate minor in aging and population health.
- The goal is to offer students the ability to graduate with a LTC Facilities License and have the opportunity to complete the residency hours while enrolled in the program.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed MPH emphasis in Population Aging and Long-term Care. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 5, 2023 , 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

***Action Items:**

- Program Directors will review proposed change to MPH math and science prerequisites with their departmental faculty and provide feedback to Chris Cutshaw by March 31st:
<https://arizona.app.box.com/file/1155218007407> (All Program Directors)
- (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*