

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting

“Final Meeting Minutes”

April 5, 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), Aminata Kilungo, Christopher Lessenich, Velia Lebas Nuño, Amaka Okpara-Oguadimma, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Derek Smith, Amanda Sokan, Terry Urbine, Gabriela Valdez

Program Directors / Voting Members Absent: Leila Barazza, Lauren Erdelyi, Kacey Ernst, Niraly Patel, Nicole Yuan

Other Members Present: Anaiz Acosta, Mariah Albertie, Kim Barnes, Danielle Embry, Melanie Fleck, Nicole Johnson, Katie Lupo, Samantha Pierce, Michael Tearne

Guests: Cheryl Gerken, *Manager, Course Content Initiatives, UA Libraries*, Lisa Nava, *Associate Buyer, UA BookStores*

Meeting Recording:

https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/PeQtgLJiyFktECGt1P_4R5WjSY0fTlzgloTwSKjtL2aXEP97QoO_Ho49NIUnpjy.JrLCs0rTJs9M5Dm4?startTime=1680727921000

- **Guest Presentation:**

- Pay One Price Initiative (*Cheryl Gerken, Manager, Course Content Initiatives, UA Libraries*)



Pay One Price
email.pdf



Pay One Price & UA
Libraries.pdf

Cheryl Gerken gave an overview of the new Pay One Price Initiative, which charges undergraduate students a flat fee of \$250 for all course materials per semester, \$125 in the summer. Undergraduate students will be automatically enrolled and charged by the Bursar's Office. They must opt-out if they choose not to participate. Faculty are asked to share this information with students in their undergrad classes.

It is helpful if faculty submit their textbook list to the bookstore as soon as possible so that students can compare costs and decide to continue or opt-out.

Comments from the committee:

- If faculty plan to require a textbook for a subset of students in their class (ie. honors students), it is recommended they reach out to the bookstore staff to discuss options.
- Under this program, will UA Bookstores sell textbooks at a cost comparable to other vendors? The bookstore can negotiate with publishers if they anticipate a large purchase. This is dependent on faculty submitting their requests as early as possible.

- **Announcements:**

- General Education Course Submissions (*John Ehiri*)

UA is accepting new General Education course submissions. Faculty proposing a course must complete an initial Quick Start training. Instructors do not need to complete the training again for additional submissions. Gen Ed courses introduce students to our degree programs and bring in tuition revenue.

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

- Minutes Approval: March 1, 2023 meeting



2023_3_1 Education
Committee Meeting

- New Course Proposals:

- BIOS 680 Biostatistical Methods I: Clinical Trials/Survival Analysis (*Ed Bedrick*)



BIOS 680
Biostatistical Metho

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

- **Old Business:**

- Discussion Item: Proposed Changes to MPH Admissions Criteria (*Chris Cutshaw*)
 - Edits of Math and Biology requirements



MEMO Math
Science prereq. 3.28

Departments are continuing to discuss the math and science prerequisites.

Comments from the committee:

- EHS made changes to EOH/IH admissions requirements several years ago, removing calculus and requiring college algebra instead. Their program is based in exposure science. Students must be proficient in math, chemistry, and physics to be successful. The faculty are considering accepting students with deficiencies, allowing them to complete prerequisite coursework within the first year.
- It was asked if it is possible for each concentration to have different admissions requirements. It is possible and aligns with our current model. All MPH students complete the same core courses so we must determine common prerequisites as well, especially for EPID/BIOS courses.
- When will we make a final decision as a committee? While the goal is to remove barriers to admission, it is important that the committee work collectively to find a solution that allows students to be successful in our programs and in the field. Even when students have completed the stated prerequisites, they still struggle in some of the classes. We need to determine which prerequisite courses will provide the best preparation for the MPH.
- OSA begins recruiting the fall 2024 cohort a year in advance and SOPHAS updates are due in summer 2023. As this issue is continuing to be discussed, the soonest we may implement changes will be fall 2025. The online program may have more flexibility due to their rolling admissions cycle.

Program Directors are asked to discuss math and science prerequisites with their department faculty. Chris Cutshaw will provide an update at the next meeting. *

- **New Business:**

- Action Item: Proposed MPH Emphasis in Climate Change and Health (John Ehiri)



COPH Exploratory
Form_Final_Climate

Dr. Ehiri gave an overview of the proposed new program. Climate change and health is an important area of focus at the university, UAHS, CEPH, ASPPH, and MEZCOPH.

Comments from the committee:

- There is only one other ASPPH CEPH program that offers this concentration.
- It was asked how this program is different from Environmental Health. Climate change is an interdisciplinary issue and this program will draw from faculty expertise in environmental health, epidemiology, policy and global health.
- This will be a college-wide program with a program lead and a committee formed to administer the program.
- It will be important to recruit new students and faculty instead of continuing to draw students away from our current programs and adding to faculty burden.
- It is a competitive educational environment and MEZCOPH needs to move quickly to establish ourselves as experts in this area of research. There are plans to hire an instructional designer with a marketing background, and additional faculty with expertise in climate change and health.
- If there is overlap between programs, we should be strategic about how we name the new programs to avoid confusion.
- Climate change and health should continue to be a part of the general public health curriculum. Faculty are encouraged to cover this topic in their classes as appropriate.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the MPH Emphasis in Climate Change and Health by a vote of 9-1 abstention.

- **Future Business:**

- AI and ChatGPT are changing the landscape of higher education. It would be helpful to learn more about these new tools. Dr. Ehiri will explore and invite an expert to present at a future meeting. *

- **Other Business and Reminders:**

- Admitted Students Day will be April 28th from 11-1pm. Departments are asked to have a faculty representative available for each program. Anaiz Acosta will send a calendar invite.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: May 3, 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 before our next meeting on May 3, 2023: <https://arizona.app.box.com/file/1179449647830> (*All Program Directors*)
- Dr. Ehiri will invite a UA expert in AI and ChatGPT to present at a future meeting. (*John Ehiri, Danielle Embry*)
- (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. (*John Ehiri, Danielle Embry*)

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