



Faculty Assembly Final Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2024

12:00-1:00pm

In Person: DRACH-118

Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/83219127025>

Primary Faculty Present: Melissa Furlong, *Chair*

Halima Alaofe, Mona Arora, Erika Austhof, Leila Barraza, Heidi Brown, Stephanie Carroll, Scott Carvajal, Felina Cordova-Marks, John Ehiri, Kate Ellingson, Kacey Ernst, Leslie Farland, Janet Foote, Ibrahim Garba, David Garcia, Onicio Leal-Neto, Lifeng Lin, Bridget Murphy, Tomas Nuño, Velia Nuño, Kelly Palmer, Brianna Rooney, Antonio Rubio, Refugio Sepulveda, Amanda Soka, Terry Urbine, Maeve Wallace, Amanda Wilson, Nicole Yuan

Primary Faculty Absent: Jennifer Bea, Paloma Beamer, Edward Bedrick, Dean Billheimer, Leonard Brown, Jeff Burgess, Zhao Chen, Gloria Coronado, Chris Cutshaw, Leslie Dennis, Dan Derksen, Brian Dodge, Christine Girard, Laura Gronewold, Iman Hakim, Jennifer Hatcher, Tricia Haynes, Paul Hsu, Chengcheng Hu, Aminata Kilungo, Yann Klimentidis, Bryna Koch, Mary Koss, Karl Krupp, Chris Lim, Yiwen Liu, Nathan Lothrop, Purnima Madhivanan, Priscilla Magrath, Adriana Maldonado, Martha Moore-Monroy, Shannon Newton, Adaeze Oguegbu, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Kelly Reynolds, Denis Roe, Shiela Soto, Xiaoxiao Sun, Cythia Thomson, Gabriela Valdez, Marc Verhougstraete, Frank von Hippel

Other MEZCOPH Personnel Present: Robin Byler-Thomas, Joy Caron, Danielle Embry, Ali Gabriel, Maia Ingram, Jennifer King, Jean McClelland, Naqib Safi, Karen Tiggs, Raju Thiagarajan

Meeting Recording:

https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/4AN16ldL3pP9unFEX9OqWBFZO1LoDoc6nmaEC5_eJaDCiFUVQDUuFro7lvkhlmIu.5ObI2qQuBljwIjx?startTime=1723832911000

1. Updates from Deans and Department Chairs

- HPS (*Scott Carvajal*)
 - Dr. Carvajal welcomed Maeve Wallace, new Associate Professor in HPS.
 - HPS is conducting a search for a new Endowed Professor in Health Promotion.
 - Department Chairs met with university leadership recently and Scott presented key takeaways from the meeting: UA would like to improve graduation rates and faculty are encouraged to embrace AI technology. The centralization of HR and IT has been challenging, but they are increasing staff and working to streamline processes. There is a new campus safety website with multiple resources.

- Academic Affairs (*John Ehiri*)
 - OAFA is preparing for fall semester and finalizing TA and instructor assignments.
 - John will share course enrollment numbers at next meeting.
- EPI/BIOS (*Kacey Ernst*)
 - Epidemiology is recruiting two new faculty members and have scheduled interviews for four candidates in September/October.
 - A new program in Biostatistics is being developed. They hope to launch in the next year.
- DEI (*Velia Nuño*)
 - Dr. Nuño announced several events. The College Mixer will occur on Sept. 18 in the Walkway of Wellness from 11:30-1:30pm. Faculty are welcome to promote and recruit students for their research projects at the event. A carne asada cookout will occur on Saturday, October 26th on the lawn outside Drachman Hall. There will be vegetarian options.
 - The MEZCOPH Committee on Inclusion and Equity meets virtually the first Friday of every month from 10-11am. All are welcome to attend.
- Faculty Senate (*David Garcia*)
 - Dr. Garcia is the new Faculty Senate representative for MEZCOPH. He is getting oriented to the role and will be working on the Diversity and Inclusion subcommittee as well.
- PHPPTR (*Leila Barazza*)
 - There have been a few faculty and staff departures. Joe Gerald has retired. Luna Far and Kirin Goff have left the UA. They are searching for a new administrative associate.
 - New student orientation for Phoenix campus students will occur Friday, August 23rd.
- Open Forum (*All faculty*)
 - Terry Urbine is overseeing TA assignments for PHPPTR classes and asked faculty to share names of students with him who are interested in TA positions for future semesters.
 - Comments from the committee:
 - It would be helpful if Program Directors reached out to each other if they have TA vacancies to ensure we are prioritizing MEZCOPH students for these positions.
 - It was clarified that PhD students across all programs should be given priority for TA-ships if they are a good match for the course.
 - If a course does not reach the enrollment threshold for a TA, there may be opportunities to hire students for instructional support.

- International students who are not self-funded need at least a .5 FTE to meet visa conditions. There are also early deadlines to consider when hiring international students. It is important to develop college-wide policies for new international students.
- Pre-recorded workshops for incoming students on finding GTA/GRA positions would be helpful.
- Jean McClelland will be facilitating a Faculty Learning Community on Teaching with AI. It will be limited to Public Health faculty and meetings are tentatively scheduled for Friday afternoons.

2. Faculty Discussion on Student Accommodations and Absences (*Antonio Rubio*)



DRC

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Dr. Rubio shared information regarding DRC accommodations, types of excused absences, and requests for higher grades. He encouraged discussion on best practices for handling these requests.

Comments from the committee:

- The calendar of religious holidays is posted online: <https://registrar.arizona.edu/calendar-religious-holidays>. Dr. Felina Cordova-Marks is drafting language for our syllabus template in regards to Indigenous ceremonies and holidays that are not included in the calendar.
- Instructors are handling these requests in different ways and UA allows for a variety of approaches. Faculty should be reasonably flexible and inform students of their expectations and class policies at the beginning of the semester.

3. Review / Approval of March 29, 2024 Minutes (*Melissa Furlong*)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The March 29, 2024 minutes were approved by all voting members present.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.

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