

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting

Final Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 pm, DRACH A326

Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86255483666>

Committee Members Present: Anaiz Acosta, Mariah Albertie, Kim Barnes, Luis Benitez, Heidi Brown* (chair), Chris Cutshaw*, Lyn Durán*, Lady Elli*, Danielle Embry, Courtney Faryab, Ash Gagliano, Andrea Gaub, Laura Gronewold, Oluchi Kanma-Okafor*, Bryna Koch*, Monica Muñoz, Velia Leybas Nuño, Katie Lupo, Vanessa Perez, Amanda Sokan*, Michael Tearne, Terry Urbine*, Gabriela Valdez*, Makele White, Nicole Yuan*

Committee Members Absent: John Ehiri (ex-officio), Paul Hsu*, Aminata Kilungo*, Kristen Pogreba Brown*, Abba Versace

* voting member

Meeting Recording: https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/IIH7gox7O39EGp_E7K4T-FmmVW1AAdO8Hiu1kDFyh12xgwwPSMqp_PXarVbEbWM.MmWjbIV3oN1k6X0O?startTime=1733345332000

• **Announcements:**

- Final syllabus statement acknowledging Native ceremonies/holidays (*Danielle Embry*)



Final Native
American Traditiona

Danielle shared the final Native American Traditional and Cultural Ceremonies syllabus statement. Danielle will add the statement to the spring 2025 syllabus template and share it with faculty. *

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

- Minutes Approval: November 6, 2024 meeting



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Education Committe

- New Course Proposals:

- GHI 2xx Creative Wellness: The Role of Arts in Public Health (*Gabriela Valdez*)



GHI 2xx Arts in
Public Health_Syllab



GHI 2xx Arts in
Public Health_GE Pr

The Consent Agenda was seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0.

- **Old Business:**

- Discussion Item: Direct Admissions (*Lyn Durán*)



Direct Admissions
COPH Concentration (

The Direct Admissions proposal was shared with Dean's Council and it was decided that all MEZCOPH departments may opt in for the fall 2026 cycle. The process would allow students who have completed a BS or BA degree at UA, and meet specific concentration requirements, to submit a streamlined MPH application. Chris Cutshaw shared a spreadsheet for tracking direct admissions criteria. Program Directors were asked to discuss it with their department and let Lyn/OSA know if they would like to participate by mid-February.*

Comments from the committee:

- The main difference for direct admissions students is that they do not need to complete a SOPHAS application.
- It was asked if eliminating the SOPHAS application would make it difficult to track student data. GradApp can be modified to capture some of the missing data, but some of the data will need to be manually reconciled.
- Many CEPH-accredited programs have eliminated the SOPHAS application in their admissions process.

- **New Business:**

- Discussion Item: Inclusive Core Curriculum (*Velia Leybas Nuño*)

Velia announced that she will no longer be the BA Program Director. The DEI office is hosting a First-Generation Pinning Ceremony on Friday, December 13th from 10:00-11:30am. Velia shared data on first-generation graduates in MEZCOPH.

The DEI office is exploring how to integrate diversity and cross-cultural competence into our curriculum. They plan to focus on the core courses, starting with the MPH. Velia presented a proposal for evaluating syllabi and asked the committee for feedback.

Comments from the committee:

- What is the desired outcome of this effort? The result would be more integration of cross-cultural competence and diversity into our curriculum.
- The DEI office is developing a baseline of criteria by which to measure our current courses. They will discuss it with the faculty and any changes to the course would be optional.
- Will course topics and assignments also be evaluated? The DEI office is conducting a literature review which will inform the process. Velia will share findings with the Committee on Inclusion and Equity and the Education Committee before deciding on appropriate evaluation criteria.
- The committee expressed interest in learning the results of the literature review and receiving feedback on syllabi. It was suggested that there be college-wide, as well as department specific, guidance.

- Education and resources will be available for instructors who would like to learn more about designing inclusive curriculum.
- **Other Business:**
 - Mariah Albertie's last day will be December 19th. The job posting is being finalized and they hope to fill the position in January. Mariah will share a Box folder with useful resources in case students/faculty have questions. Kim Barnes and Vanessa Perez are available in the interim if faculty need assistance.
 - Faculty were reminded to check if students are in the department/college before offering a TA position. OSA is improving the Application Survey form to make the process clear and prevent ineligible students from applying. The final number of assigned TAs will not be finalized until the first week of classes due to late enrollment.
- **Future Business:**
 - Two agenda items were requested for the next meeting:
 - AI use in the classroom, specifically to survey current AI policies across the college and develop guidelines for instructors when students use AI inappropriately.
 - Faculty mentoring for online students
 Danielle will add both items to the January agenda. *

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: January 8, 2025, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

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

*** Action Items:**

- Danielle will add the Native Ceremonies syllabus statement to the MEZCOPH syllabus template and share with faculty. *(Danielle Embry)*
- Program Directors will discuss the Direct Admissions process with their department faculty and let Lyn/OSA know if they would like to participate, and what their admissions criteria are, by mid-February. *(All Program Directors, Lyn Durán)*
- Danielle will include suggested agenda items on the January Education Committee for discussion. *(Danielle Embry)*