

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting**Final Meeting Minutes****January 10, 2024**2:00 – 3:00 pm, DRACH-A326 and Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86255483666>

Committee Members Present: Mariah Alberty, Kim Barnes, Chris Cutshaw*, Lyn Durán*, Danielle Embry, Lauren Erdelyi*, Courtney Faryab, Joe Gerald*, Laura Gronewold, Beth Jacobs*, Nicole Johnson, Katie Lupo, Kristen Pograba-Brown*, Derek Smith*, Amanda Sokan*, Michael Tearne, Terry Urbine*, Gabriel Valdez* (chair), Yevheniia Varyvoda*, Nicole Yuan*, Makele White

Committee Members Absent: Anaiz Acosta, Luis Benitez, John Ehiri (ex-officio), Paul Hsu*, Velia Leybas Nuño*, Monica Muñoz, Niraly Patel*, Ash Pendleton, Abba Versace

* voting member

Meeting Recording: https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/T_e78cQmrlvRLa0uUkM3NPIn0x02W-IEP5leJ_quWEU0LdjJoGcjWR2r7m1BzvJX.WlzLD34zjH-8uF1m?startTime=1704919752000

- **Announcements:**

- New OSA staff and Recruitment Updates (Lyn Durán)

Lyn introduced new OSA staff to the committee.

- Makele White, *Academic Advisor II*
 - Andrea Gaub, *Director, Undergraduate Advising and Operations*
 - Vanessa Perez, *Manager, Online Operations and Student Services*

Last fall, the college participated in 24 in-person undergraduate recruitment events and 18 undergraduate information sessions. There are 15 undergraduate recruitment events scheduled this spring. Admitted Students Day is on April 6th. We have 729 partial applications and 231 admitted students.

There are 5 graduate fair events this spring and Graduate Admitted Students Day is March 22nd. MEZCOPH Ambassadors will conduct info sessions and tours on the first Tuesday and last Friday of every month this spring.

- Curricular Affairs Deadlines & Spring 2024 Enrollments (Danielle Embry)



PIT Enrollment
Comparison_Spring



Curricular Affairs
Deadlines (1).pdf

Danielle presented spring point-in-time enrollment trends and new Curricular Affairs deadlines for 2025. Overall course enrollment has increased slightly from previous years. Gen Ed courses take longer to be approved by UA. It is recommended that new Gen Ed courses be submitted a year in advance.

- Spring TA Assignments (*Michael Tearne*)

The improved process is going well. There were 60 TA openings this spring. They were able to send offer letters earlier which reduced the number of declines from 35% in the fall to 12% this spring.

- Admissions Update (*Courtney Faryab*)

There are 21 students formally admitted, 3 domestic students and 2 international students have accepted our offer. 7 applications are in the process of being reviewed and 12 will be assigned soon. Admitted students are sent a letter and marketing materials. Students who have not committed will receive a follow up email.

Faculty are completing application reviews on time. Courtney can re-assign a faculty reviewer if needed.

Comments from the committee:

- When will financial information be sent to applicants? The TA application is ready but they are still loading scholarships into Scholarship Universe. It should be ready to send this month.

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

- Minutes Approval: December 6, 2023 meeting



2023_12_6
Education Committee

The Consent Agenda was seconded and approved by a vote of 11-0.

- **Old Business:**

- Discussion Item: Guaranteed admission to MPH (*Beth Jacobs*)

Dr. Jacobs re-introduced the topic of guaranteed admission for qualified graduate students and invited discussion.

Comments from the committee:

- It might be an incentive for students to apply if the college completed the SOPHAS application on their behalf. Alternatively, since students must provide multiple application items (ie transcripts, letters, etc.), it may be easier for them to complete the application themselves. It is worth exploring pros and cons of streamlining the application process.
- SOPHAS data is used in the student database and for annual ASPPH reporting. It would be helpful to explore if the data can be collected another way. If the application is a barrier, we should consider supporting students through fee waivers instead of waiving or completing the application for them.
- It would be useful to analyze where our matriculated students come from and consider opening up the proposal to more than STEM majors.
- At the undergraduate level, UA advertises assured admissions for students that meet specific criteria. It is a competitive educational landscape and any incentives we can

provide potential students are useful to explore. It is still important to connect with the Grad College to determine what is possible.

- This may be an appropriate project for the Strategic Enrollment Committee, which will be reconvening in February. We should be mindful of how this will impact our admissions workload in the college. In addition, we should set clear deliverables in order to assess effectiveness and ensure we have the capacity to increase enrollment in these programs.
- It makes sense to pilot the program on a small scale, then launch more broadly if successful. If students are aware of a program like this earlier in their undergraduate career, it may impact their choice of where they apply for grad school.

*Dr. Valdez proposed the following action items:

- Courtney will connect with Luis to pull a report on where our MPH applicants are coming from and what undergraduate degrees they have. If they chose not enroll at UA, it would be helpful to know where they went.
- Gaby and Chris will prepare a short proposal for the committee to review.
- Danielle and John will check with the Graduate College on their admissions policy.

- **New Business:**

- Discussion Item: Flexible TA assignments (*Joe Gerald*)

Joe invited discussion on whether the committee would like to advocate for more flexibility in how TAs are assigned at the department level. If enrollment warrants a specific number of TAs but the instructor denies support, it was proposed that Program Directors have the authority to re-assign the TA to another course that may not meet the enrollment threshold.

Comments from the committee:

- Would this change increase the administrative workload involved in the TA allocation process? Michael confirmed it would not create an extra burden for him. There may be changes in who will be handling the administrative aspects of TA assignments in future.

The following motion was made and seconded: The Education Committee requests that Program Directors and Department Chairs have more flexibility with the assignment of TAs than currently allotted.

The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0.

*Danielle will inform John of the motion and ask that he discuss it with Dean Hakim and report back.

- **Future Business:**

- The committee requested an update on how the UA financial situation may impact OSA and our educational programs. *Danielle will discuss with John and add topic to future agenda.

- **Other Business and Reminders:**



Proposed MPH FCH
concentration change

- Chris announced proposed changes to the MPH FCH concentration. The revised curriculum has been approved by HPS faculty and is available in Box for committee members to review. It still needs to be approved by Curricular Affairs and the Graduate College.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: February 7, 2024, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, DRACH-A326 or Zoom

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

***Action Items:**

- Courtney will connect with Luis to pull a report on where our MPH students are coming from, what undergraduate degrees they have, and if the data is available, where students who turned down our program went. *(Courtney Faryab, Luis Benitez)*
- Gaby and Chris will prepare a guaranteed admissions policy proposal for committee review. *(Gabriela Valdez, Chris Cutshaw)*
- John and Danielle will contact the Graduate College to inquire about their graduate admissions policy. *(John Ehiri, Danielle Embry)*
- Danielle will inform John of the approved motion to provide Program Directors and Department Chairs more flexibility in TA assignments. John will discuss it with Dean Hakim and report back. *(Danielle Embry, John Ehiri)*
- Danielle will discuss the proposed future agenda item with John. If there is an update on how the UA budget situation is affecting OSA and our educational programs, John will include the item to the February agenda. *(Danielle Embry, John Ehiri)*