

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting

Final Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 pm, DRACH-A326 and Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86255483666>

Committee Members Present: Mariah Alberty, Kim Barnes, Luis Benitez, Heidi Brown*, Chris Cutshaw*, Lyn Durán*, John Ehiri (ex officio), Danielle Embry, Lauren Erdelyi*, Courtney Faryab, Ash Gagliano, Andrea Gaub, Joe Gerald* (chair), Laura Gronewold, Paul Hsu*, Nicole Johnson, Velia Leybas Nuño*, Katie Lupo, Vanessa Perez, Kristen Pogreba Brown*, Amanda Soka*, Michael Tearne, Terry Urbine*, Gabriela Valdez*, Yevheniia Varvoda*, Abba Versace, Makele White, Nicole Yuan*

Committee Members Absent: Anaiz Acosta, Monica Muñoz, Derek Smith*

Guests Present: Iman Hakim

* voting member

Meeting Recording: <https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/gBBUwQEINmqtepWscigJ-293N--mDaMGWrg1paL6jyWVKqnsIWqqqDqORZd69HRN.VBRbg1ei6-R3716b?startTime=1707339070000>

• **Announcements:**

- Education Committee Membership – student recruitment (*Danielle Embry*)



Education
Committee Members:

Danielle shared the Education Committee membership list. Student members on the committee will be graduating in May. Danielle asked the committee to help identify students to fill the undergraduate, master's and doctoral level vacancies.

- Program Assessment Update (*Luis Benitez*)

Luis has fixed the errors in REDCap and manually sent out links for students who have already completed their comprehensive exam. A notification will automatically be sent to the committee a week before the student's comp exam. If faculty do not receive the notification, they should reach out to Luis to identify the issue.

Comments from the committee:

- Are Program Directors responsible for collecting other data needed for assessment? Luis is reviewing each program and determining what he can retrieve from UAccess. If the data is not readily available, he will reach out to Program Directors for assistance.

- Update on UA Financial Action Plan (*Dean Hakim*)

Colleges have been asked to plan for a 5-10-15% budget cut, as well as develop a strategy for improving revenue. While Public Health has a healthy reserve, UA is still requiring us to submit a plan. Jing Liu and Dean Hakim are working on the proposal now and we will hear back from the university in April.

Research revenue is strong, but our enrollments are down. ABOR has a strict metric for program viability and the university will be reviewing academic programs for redundancy and cost savings. MEZCOPH has been flagged in the past for a low number of graduates in our MS & PhD programs.

Comments from the committee:

- It is unknown if UA will require us to cut 5, 10 or 15% of our budget. Dean Hakim plans to submit a plan with a 0-5% cut and negotiate the use of our reserves to cover remaining costs.
- Dean Hakim was asked to clarify what is meant by 25% attrition. Faculty retirements result in salary savings and the UA will allow us to replace faculty at 25% of the amount saved. For example, if we save \$500,000 in salaries due to retirements, we may rehire at \$125,000. Research and endowment faculty hires do not have the same restrictions.
- It was asked who is involved in the current budget planning. Jing Liu and Dean Hakim are preparing the plan, and they are focusing on non-personnel cuts such as the Dean's Investment Fund, travel, etc.
- The university has reported that most units are operating at a deficit, however the numbers may be artificially inflated due to switching from RCM to the AIB budget model. It is possible the UA is making a simple comparison of revenue vs. expenses and not looking at the whole picture, which includes reserves.
- Is there a discussion of strategies to expand revenue? UA Health Sciences is making this a priority and presenting opportunities to strategically invest and increase revenue as part of their budget plans.

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

- Minutes Approval: January 10, 2024 meeting



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Education Committee

- New Course Proposals:

- CPH/GHI 4xx/5xx Global Health Leadership (*Gabriela Valdez*)



Global Health
Leadership Syllabus

The Consent Agenda was seconded and approved by a vote of 13-0.

- **Old Business:**

- Discussion Item: Guaranteed admission to MPH (*Gabriela Valdez, Chris Cutshaw*)

Dr. Valdez and Dr. Cutshaw are collecting information on comparable programs at other universities. They plan to follow up with the Education Committee and the Graduate College after completing this initial research.

Most programs offer early or guaranteed admission at the freshman level. MEZCOPH could promote our accelerated master's programs using a similar model, in addition to exploring opportunities for guaranteed admission at the junior/senior level.

The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

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

John shared the committee's recommendation with Iman. Given the current financial situation, Dean Hakim responded that it is not possible to grant more flexibility in TA assignments at this time.

- **Other Business and Reminders:**

- John will be sharing MS, PhD and DrPH graduate numbers with Program Directors soon.
- Student Annual Progress Reports are ongoing. OSA will be sending updates to PDs in the next two weeks.
- John will be meeting with Lyn to finalize scholarship recruitment funding. He asked PDs to identify their two top candidates to receive this funding.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: March 6, 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 and Faculty Affairs*