

Faculty Assembly Final Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2025

12:00pm-1:00pm

In Person: DRACH-120

Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/84000430731>

Primary Faculty Present: Melissa Furlong, *Chair*

Halima Alaofe, Mona Arora, Paloma Beamer, Heidi Brown, Zhao Chen, Christina Cutshaw, Dan Derksen, Brian Dodge, John Ehiri, David Garcia, Yann Klimentidis, Bryna Koch, Onicio Leal-Neto, Chris Lim, Nate Lothrop, Purnima Madhivanan, Bridget Murphy, Shannon Newton, Tomas Nuño, Adaeze Oguegbu, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Kelly Reynolds, Brianna Rooney, Antonio Rubio, Refugio Sepulveda, Amanda Soka, Shiela Soto, Terry Urbine, Gabriela Valdez, Yevheniia Varyvoda, Maeve Wallace, Nicole Yuan

Primary Faculty Absent: Erika Austhof, Leila Barraza, Jennifer Bea, Edward Bedrick, Dean Billheimer, Leonard Brown, Jeff Burgess, Stephanie Carroll, Scott Carvajal, Felina Cordova-Marks, Gloria Coronado, Rebecca Crocker, Leslie Dennis, Kate Ellingson, Kacey Ernst, Leslie Farland, Ibrahim Garba, Christine Girard, Laura Gronewold, Iman Hakim, Tricia Haynes, Paul Hsu, Chengcheng Hu, Aminata Kilungo, Mary Koss, Karl Krupp, Velia Leybas Nuño, Lifeng Lin, Yiwen Liu, Priscilla Magrath, Adriana Maldonado, Martha Moore-Monroy, Kelly Palmer, Rustin Reed, Denise Roe, Xiaoxiao Sun, Cynthia Thomson, Marc Verhougstraete, Frank von Hippel, Amanda Wilson

Other MEZCOPH Personnel Present: Robin Byler Thomas, Danielle Embry, Ali Gabriel, Jill Guernsey de Zapien, Maia Ingram, Katie Lupo, Jean McClelland, Tawab Saljuqi, Karen Tiggs

Guests Present: Danielle Barefoot, Meg Bennett, Jen McCormack, Rachel Small

Meeting Recording: https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/t9zYxx8ANNC9f8UQxeHwoPh8iU1trEGHq6E-zrby3mFJAaFG9e7Zg_iZLUmgNhE.fLanmvyM6WrXcuvK?startTime=1745002192000

Guest Presentation – Research Development Services (RDS)

(Jen McCormack, Meg Bennet, Danielle Barefoot, Rachel Small)



RDSMEZCOPHApril20
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Dr. Jen McCormack, Dr. Meg Bennett, Danielle Barefoot, and Rachel Small from the Research Development Services team shared an overview of available support for faculty research. They

provide proposal development support across all stages, including strategy sessions, technical review, and collaborative grant planning.

Faculty are encouraged to reach out early in the grant-writing process. Contact information and slides will be distributed post-meeting.

Review / Approval of Minutes

(Melissa Furlong)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 16 and December 6, 2024 minutes. The minutes were approved by all voting members present.

In-Person Raffle

(Melissa Furlong)

Dr. Furlong held a raffle to encourage in-person attendance.

Dean & Department Updates

Associate Dean for Academic & Faculty Affairs

(John Ehiri)

- A call will be going out for a new Faculty Assembly Chair to succeed Melissa Furlong. Danielle will send a call for nominations. Faculty interested in the role should reach out.
- There are ongoing discussions in the Education Committee about developing a college-wide AI policy. The committee will begin drafting policy guidance related to AI use in courses and comprehensive exams. Faculty are asked to submit their syllabus language regarding AI to Danielle for compilation.

Associate Dean for Research

(Zhao Chen)

- Dr. Chen reminded faculty to always check grant solicitations for the most current versions as updates were posted on March 30.
- Changes to the biosketch format requirements for NIH applications have been delayed; faculty should await further guidance.
- To support internal hiring, talent pools are being developed for project collaboration opportunities.
- Faculty will soon be asked to review and vote on updated bylaws for the Evaluation Committee.
- The Centralized IT Advisory Committee is soliciting feedback via an upcoming survey. Research faculty with IT needs are encouraged to respond or reach out directly to Dr. Chen.

Associate Dean for Community Engagement

(Paloma Beamer)

- The office is integrating strategic plan efforts with accreditation processes.
- They are developing an inventory of ongoing community outreach across departments to reduce duplication and increase visibility. In addition, they are planning to create a shared repository for outreach materials and curricula.
- Clinical rotation partnerships within the health sciences are being developed for public health students.
- The First Generation Pinning Ceremony is May 2nd from 10-11:30am in Drachman Hall A114.

CEP Department

(Kelly Reynolds)

- CEP has received a SPFI award to support the recruitment of Lydia Jennings, who will join in January 2026 with interdisciplinary support across campus.
- Notable faculty updates include:
 - Stephanie Carroll will be on sabbatical developing indigenous data sovereignty, policy and practice frameworks.
 - Yevheniia Varyvoda has joined the department as Assistant Professor of Practice and Program Director for EHS.
 - Aminata Kilungo is moving on to a fellowship at the University of Capetown.
 - Lynn Gerald has a new adjunct appointment in CEP.
 - Amanda Wilson and Frank von Hippel had recent grant renewals.
 - Faculty have been actively reaching out to elected representatives as citizens to support continued federal funding (e.g., NIOSH training grant).

Open Discussion: College of Health Sciences Integration

Melissa provided an overview of the July 1 integration of the College of Health Sciences into the Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. The new unit will be the School of Health Professions and Global Medicine. The school's faculty are primarily clinical, have different titles and follow a different P&T model.

Major areas for consideration include:

- Promotion and tenure process
- Accreditation adjustments
- Course alignment (e.g., competency mapping)
- Merging bylaws
- Research and administrative support

Approximately 50 COHS faculty and staff will be joining MEZCOPH. Their programs are already, or soon-to-be, accredited and have administrative support and funding from UAHS. This integration presents opportunities for collaboration to address unmet health workforce needs.

Faculty are encouraged to complete the Qualtrics survey linked in Dean Hakim's email to help identify potential resource needs. Melissa will also draft a shared document to collect faculty input on how various functions may be impacted and any emerging questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:00 pm

Action Items:

- Danielle will collect AI-related syllabus language from faculty.
- Danielle will send out a call for nominations for the next Faculty Assembly Chair.
- Melissa will establish a shared document in One Drive for faculty to provide input and questions regarding the MEZCOPH/COHS integration.