

MEZCOPH Education Committee Meeting**Final Meeting Minutes****March 5, 2025**

2:00 – 3:00 pm, DRACH A326

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

Committee Members Present: Anaiz Acosta, Kim Barnes, Heidi Brown*, Chris Cutshaw*, Lyn Durán*, John Ehiri (ex-officio), Danielle Embry, Courtney Faryab, Ash Gagliano, Andrea Gaub, Laura Gronewold, Paul Hsu* (chair), Nicole Johnson, Oluchi Kanma-Okafor*, Bryna Koch*, Katie Lupo, Monica Muñoz, Vanessa Perez, Kristen Pogreba-Brown*, Michael Tearne, Terry Urbine*, Makele White

Committee Members Absent: Luis Benitez, Lady Dorothy Elli*, David Garcia*, Aminata Kilungo*, Amanda Sokan*, Gabriela Valdez*, Abba Versace

* voting member

Meeting Recording: <https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/A-8vzc8zKfFk-BWPHYUdSAbNhJq0cbl9hTNBs25khyh9w63frn5BrHBYVjXDCgxi.4m6ALG6qHEFj1RTY?startTime=1741207784000>

- **Announcements:**

- Update on Admissions (*Courtney Faryab*)



Admissions Update
03.05.25.pdf

Courtney shared graduate admissions data for fall 2025. The deadline for students to accept their admissions offer is April 15th. OSA is planning targeted recruitment events on Admitted Students Day and during the Public Health Poster Forum. They will be hosting department chats during Public Health Week. Courtney asked departments to let Anaiz know if they would like to participate.

The next admissions deadline is April 1st and they are planning to extend the deadline to June 1st for domestic applicants. Applications are slightly down from last year but it is too early to compare the data.

Chris Cutshaw shared current online admissions numbers for summer and fall:
Summer 2025 – 4 admitted, 2 accepted
Fall 2025 – 2 admitted, 4 under review

Andrea Gaub shared that there are 601 undergraduate applicants with 543 admitted. Numbers are up due to direct admission process for the Nursing College, which automatically enrolls students in their second-choice major if they are not accepted into Nursing.

- Update on Scholarships/Funding (Katie Lupo)

The college has allocated funding for doctoral candidates and offer letters have been sent. If the offers are declined, recruitment funding can be extended to other doctoral candidates or MPH applicants. Doctoral students should be given priority.

Scholarships are now available on Scholarship Universe. Applications are down. Katie asked departments to advertise scholarship opportunities to their students. The deadline to apply is April 15th.

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

- Minutes Approval: February 5, 2025 meeting



2025_2_5 Education
Committee Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

- **Old Business:**

- Update on Direct Admissions (Chris Cutshaw)

Chris asked Program Directors to discuss participation in Direct Admissions and determine their admissions criteria by April 4th, if possible. *

Comments from the committee:

- Epi/Bios plan to participate but still needs to discuss criteria. PHPPTR will be meeting mid-April to finalize their criteria.

- Discussion Item: Faculty Mentoring of Online MPH Students (Chris Cutshaw)



MPH Mentoring
12.4.pdf

Chris reviewed the current advising structure for online and main campus MPH programs. Online students have expressed interest in more interaction with faculty. Starting with new summer 2025 admits, Chris proposed assigning a faculty mentor to online MPH students upon admission with a specific role of career mentoring. Chris and Vanessa would continue to help students with course planning and their APR.

Comments from the committee:

- It would be helpful to develop some mentoring guidelines for faculty who will participate, and let students know they can reach out to any faculty with their questions.
- How can this be formalized so that faculty get credit on Vitae? Currently mentees are automatically populated via GradPath, but additional mentees can be manually added to their CV.

- Discussion Item: AI use in the classroom
 - PHPPTR AI Strategy Update (*Terry Urbine*)



PHPP&TR AI
strategy or policy.pc

Terry shared a draft AI teaching strategy developed by Dr. Mohan Tanniru for PHPPTR. While policies to monitor use and hold students accountable are still to-be-determined, the department agrees that the instructor has the authority to set parameters for AI use in their class and should clearly state it on their syllabus.

Comments from the committee:

- A link to UA AI resources was shared:
<https://artificialintelligence.arizona.edu/resources>. It is important that students understand the value of learning writing skills while incorporating AI as a tool.
- Instructors can design assignments that make it more difficult for students to use AI, however it is time-consuming and faculty are very busy.
- To move toward creating a standard college-wide policy, it would be helpful to compile information about what our faculty are already doing in terms of AI use. A Box folder will be set up to keep track of this information.*
- It was suggested that the college preemptively train students and instructors on the responsible use of AI and be clear with students about it.

- **New Business:**

- Discussion Item: MEZCOPH Certificates (*John Ehiri*)

John encouraged faculty to promote our graduate certificates. He shared a spreadsheet compiled by Mariah Albertie that indicates how MPH students may complete a graduate certificate. John will share it with Program Directors after checking it's accuracy with Michael.*

Comments from the committee:

- As curriculum in the MPH and graduate certificates change year-to-year, it will be important for faculty to confirm that it is correct before advising students.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 2, 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:**

- Program Directors will discuss participation in Direct Admissions with their departmental faculty and send Chris and Courtney their admissions criteria by April 4th, or as soon as possible. (*All Program Directors, Chris Cutshaw, Courtney Faryab*)
- Danielle will set up a Box folder for AI Teaching materials and share with the committee. (*Danielle Embry*)
- John will confirm accuracy of MPH Double Dipping spreadsheet with Michael and share final version with the committee. (*John Ehiri, Michael Tearne*)