

Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes | November 18, 2015

Present: Julia Driessen, Robin Leaf, John Shaffer, Taru Gupta, Patricia Documet, Quinten Brown, Hristina Denic, Yue Chen, Mary Derkach, Cindy Bryce, David Finegold, Ying Ding

Absent: Eleanor Feingold, Nancy Glynn, Jane Clougherty

Guests: Martha Terry, Elizabeth Felter, Wes Rohrer, Thistle Elias

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Patricia Documet, Chair.

MPH Committee Meeting Update, Martha Terry

It has been a busy couple of months for the MPH Committee, which is a sub-committee of EPCC. Dr. Martha Terry updated EPCC on what has been discussed during the last couple of months in the MPH Committee meetings. Below are some of the main highlights:

- **Professionalism** – This has become an issue that has been discussed at length. There have been many instances in which professionalism has been lacking by our students. There have been issues with appropriate dress, and communication, during internship/practicums. There has also been issues with classroom behavior in a couple of instances. A Professionalism sub-committee has been formed to create a presentation for students that outlines what is expected.
- **New Plunge Events** – There was a positive response to the poverty simulation during the Plunge. Not only was the exercise well received, but it also allowed for interdisciplinary collaboration/networking. This event also allowed for Pitt Public Health to grow their footprint within the Health Sciences. The MPH Committee was been brainstorming new plunge ideas.
- **Standardizing Practicums** – This is tied into the response from CEPH. We are looking for departmental input regarding thank you notes to preceptors, as well as connecting MPH competencies to the practicum experience. When the time comes, this issue will be addressed on a school-wide level.

New Course: BCHS 2515 – *Worksite Health Promotion*, Elizabeth Felter

Dr. Elizabeth Felter attended the EPCC meeting to discuss her new course – BCHS 2515: Worksite Health Promotion. This 2-credit course has been created to better serve our students, who are getting limited exposure to coursework relating to worksite health promotion. This will better serve our students when they are entering into the workforce. Dr. Felter is unsure whether there is an interest for this course, but she is hoping that this serves as a starting point for the introduction of worksite health curriculum in Pitt Public Health. One point Dr. Felter stressed was that this course would be open to all Pitt Public Health students, not just those in BCHS.

After reviewing the submitted syllabus, the committee suggested only minor revisions.

The committee recommends that:

- Dr. Felter update the location of the DRS to 140 William Pitt Union.
- Dr. Felter include the full academic integrity statement.

Action – Quinten Brown will draft an approval letter to Dr. Felter, with the committee's recommended changes.

New Course: HPM 2024 – Comparative Global Health Systems and Policy, Wes Rohrer

Dr. Wes Rohrer spoke to EPCC about HPM 2024. This is a new course, but Dr. Rohrer stated that this course had gone through a well-received trial run. The focal point of this course will be culture. A creative project will be required, centering on a cultural icon. This is a new addition to the curriculum, and Dr. Rohrer is interested to see in which direction this takes the course.

When the submitted syllabus was reviewed, several items were discussed. The student representation on the panel felt that it would be beneficial to all involved if the midterm exam was moved to take place before spring break. The committee also was impressed with how the course competencies well highlighted well in the syllabus. Both Wes and Cindy Bryce explained to the committee that this is a requirement of the HPM department.

The committee had a few minor recommendations, such as:

- Dr. Rohrer update the language associated with the course learning objectives.
- Dr. Rohrer narrow the objective related to UN Millennium Development Goals

Action – Quinten Brown will draft an approval letter to Dr. Rohrer, with the committee's recommended changes.

Public Health Undergraduate Certificate, Cindy Bryce

Pitt Public Health has been approached by "lower campus leadership" to provide a certificate to undergraduate students. There was an unfortunate situation in which the Pitt News reported that this certificate was a done deal, and would be available in the near future. The story run by the Pitt News was premature. There are a lot of moving parts to this certificate, and leadership from Arts and Sciences, the Honors College, and Pitt Public Health need to iron out the details.

Scholarships for fall 2016, Cindy Bryce

Cindy Bryce recently sent out an announcement regarding scholarships for fall 2016. There are departmental scholarships for Master's students that are merit based. This is an attempt to attract top-notch talent to Pitt Public Health. This scholarship is renewable based on the selected student's classroom achievement.

There are also diversity scholarships available. While this is a little tricky, Pitt Public Health has created a clear direction for this scholarship. It is up to the student to self-identify themselves as someone interested in the diversity scholarship, and they will have to write a personal statement about what they will bring to the "diversity table."

The hope is that both of these opportunities attract first-rate students, while also giving the departments options with regard to who is eligible.

Program Modification: Certificate in Evaluation of Public Health Programs, Thistle Elias

Dr. Thistle Elias came to EPCC to make modifications to the Certificate in Evaluation of Public Health Programs. The goal of the modification is to “beef up” skills/tools learned through this course of study. Students have expressed to Dr. Elias that they want more, which is why the applied evaluation internship experience is being bumped up to 400 hours. Dr. Elias shared with EPCC that she had spoken to several upper-level students about this proposed change, and they were overwhelmingly on board. Dr. Elias concluded by saying she would like to make additional modifications to this certificate, but it was important to take on step at a time.

Action – Quinten Brown will draft an approval letter to Dr. Elias.

Course Modification: EPI 2220 - Applied Spatial Analysis in Environmental Epidemiology

Dr. Evelyn Talbott submitted what was thought to be a minor modification to EPI 2220. Dr. Talbott wanted to remove the pre-requisite for this course, which the committee felt was fine. While reviewing the submitted syllabus, the committee also realized that she wanted to change the credits for this course. This type of change is categorized as a major change to the course. Dr. Talbott will need to present this course to EPCC in the spring to explain why this change in credits is being made. Due to the course being open for enrollment prior to the November EPCC meeting, this issue will be revisited in the spring.

Action – Quinten Brown will draft an approval letter to Dr. Talbott, highlighting her need to appear in front of the committee.

Committee Report on “Homework”

During October’s EPCC meeting, the committee were given tasks to take back to their department. The issues taken back were related to PUBHLT 3000, and the English Language Institute’s (ELI) offer.

- **PUBHLT 3000** – The committee felt that it was important for the course description to match across all of its cross-listed iterations. There was no real definitive answer to the question on whether department’s thought their students would be interested. Similarly to the Poverty Simulation though, offering this course as an option is important to fostering a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **ELI** – Across the board, departments were very interested in what the ELI could offer regarding English proficiency for non-native speakers. Some departments love the summer idea, while others thought it might work better during the school year. Knowing that departments are interested was an important first step in moving this issue forward.

CEPH’s Response to our Accreditation, Robin Leaf

Pitt Public Health has been reaccredited for a seven year period, which is the longest period possible. Pitt Public Health will submit an interim report in August to answer the issues in which CEPH felt that more work needed to be done.

Revised CEPH Criteria – Second Round Comment Period Open, Robin Leaf

The second draft related to the new CEPH criteria are available.

Action – Please send any comments to Eleanor Feingold.

Disability Statement, Robin Leaf

The Pitt Office of Disability Resource Services has moved locations in the William Pitt Union. The change has been reflected in the Pitt Public Health syllabus template.

Submission Dates for fall 2016 New and Modified Courses – Robin Leaf

Action – Robin will send out the dates related to submission dates for fall 2016. Committee members are asked to take this information back to their departments.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

The next meeting is December 16, 1:30-3:30p.m., 110 Parran Hall.

Future items for discussion/ action at upcoming meetings:

Diversity Statement – Patricia Documet

EPCC SOP – Patricia Documet