

**Graduate School of Public Health  
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee  
September 2, 2021 | 1:30-3:30pm**

Present: Andriy Bandos, Kevin Broom, Jessica Burke, Cindy Bryce, Michael Dolinger, Jim Fabisiak, Elizabeth Felter, David Finegold, Tiffany Gary-Webb, Muhammad Sohaib Khan, Josh Mattila, Ryan Minster, Aparna Ramani, Kimberly Rehak, John Shaffer, Elsa Strotmeyer, and Ada Youk.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32pm by Dr. John Shaffer, chair.

**1. Thank You from Past EPCC Chair, John Shaffer**

**ACTION:** No action necessary.

**2. Vote for new EPCC Chair, All [secret ballot vote required]**

**ACTION:** By secret ballot, Dr. Jim Fabisiak was elected as EPCC chair.

**3. Welcome to New Members, Jim Fabisiak**

The EPCC members introduced themselves to the new(er) members, who include: Kevin Broom from the Health Policy and Management department, Elsa Strotmeyer from Epidemiology and Ryan Minster from Human Genetics. Additionally, two new student representatives were present at the meeting. Muhammad Kahn from the Infectious Diseases and Microbiology department is the new doctoral presentative and Aparna Ramani from Health Policy and Management is the alternate representative at the master's level.

**ACTION:** No action necessary.

**UPDATE:** Samantha Runa from Human Genetics will be joining the committee as the representative at the master's student level.

**Report from MPH Sub-Committee, Martha Terry**

Dr. Martha Terry presented a report of the MPH sub-committee's activities from the previous academic year, including moving assessments, events and practica online; a informal review of syllabi under the Flex@Pitt modality, discussions about a Public Health certificate; conversations about sections for PUBHLT 2034 and PUBHLT 2035 and the flipped classroom approach and sections for BHOST 2041; and a continued discussion about the uptick of undergraduates in core courses.

**ACTION:** No action necessary.

**Continued Discussion with FDIC/IDC curriculum representatives, All**

Drs. Brenda Diergaarde and Moses Bility from the FDIC/IDC curriculum committee visited the EPCC committee meeting for a continued discussion on issues of equity, inclusion and social justice in the school's curricula. While there no specific agendas for their visit to the EPCC committee, both parties agreed to keep the lines of communication open between the two committees.

**ACTION:** No action necessary. FDIC/IDC curriculum representatives will continue to visit and report in future EPCC meetings.

**Review of Summer Core Course OMET Scores, All**

EPCC committee members reviewed the summer core course evaluations, which were majorly positive. The instructor scores for PUBHLT 2034 were low, but the overall response rates for all

courses were also low. Committee members briefly discussed strategies for increased student response rates, such as giving time in class to complete OMET surveys.

**ACTION:** The school will continue to monitor core course instructors with low OMET scores. The other instructor for PUBHLT 2034 will provide some assistance to the adjunct faculty with the low scores from the summer term.

**Review of Resubmitted Syllabus for PUBHLT 0320: *Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences*, All**

EPCC committee members revisited a resubmitted syllabus for PUBHLT 0320: *Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences* from Dr. Nesta Bortey-Sam, which was conditionally approved at the July 2021 EPCC meeting. Dr. Bortey-Sam addressed the committee's concerns regarding clarification of PUBHLT 0100: Fundamentals of Public Health as a course pre-requisite, the number of TBDs on the course schedule for guest lectures, and the absence of a course textbook.

**ACTION:** The committee accepted the submitted updates.

**Approval of July Meeting Minutes, All**

**ACTION:** The committee voted to approve the minutes from the July 2021 meeting minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm.

**Upcoming EPCC Meetings & Deadlines**

OCT 7, NOV 4, and DEC 2 from 1:30-3:30pm