

**Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes | January 30, 2020**

Present: Cindy Bryce, Jessica Burke, Mary Derkach, Ying Ding, Patricia Documet, Jim Fabisiak, David Finegold, Nancy Glynn, Jess Graves, Robin Leaf, Karrie Lukin, Susanna Qiao, Giovanna Rappocciolo, Kimberly Rehak, John Shaffer and Yi-Chuan Yu.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Dr. Patricia Documet, chair.

Revised Course Proposal: Name Change for BCHS 2528 – *Integrative Seminar in Health Equity*, Noble Maseru

Dr. Noble Maseru presented an application for a modified course for BCHS 2528 that involves a name change from “Integrative Seminar in Minority Health and Health Disparities” to “Integrative Seminar in Health Equity.” He stated that the minority designation is pejorative and does not reflect current nomenclature in health equity. Additionally, health disparities is subsumed by health equity, which is why it was removed from the title of the course. In terms of content, Dr. Maseru said that they made syllabus adjustments accordingly but kept the goals, learning objectives and readings the same.

Dr. Nancy Glynn reported on student feedback concerning the distance to the class meeting location in Homewood. Dr. Maseru said that Community Engagement Center in the Hill district has opened so that the class can meet there sometimes to cut down on the commute time. Additionally, they will work out possible transportation arrangement for students the next time they offer the class.

ACTION: As the name change was made in 2014, no action is needed. Dr. Patricia Documet asked that Dr. Maseru update the Academic Integrity statement and add a grading scale to the syllabus.

Associate Dean for Diversity Report on Syllabi review, Noble Maseru

Dr. Noble Maseru reported that he met with the core course instructors for the MPH degree program and made recommendations and/or suggestions (for example, authors and readings) for how health equity content could be added to syllabi. PUBHLT 2011 is the only course that has not been completed.

ACTION: No action needed.

Approval of December 2019 Meeting Minutes, All

EPCC members voted to approve the December 2019 meeting minutes provided that future meeting dates are updated, a typo is corrected and two members are removed from the attendance list.

Discussion of GRE School-Level Admissions Requirement, All

Jess Graves, an EPCC student representative, walked committee members through two reports on student opinion of dropping the GRE requirement. One report was from students in Biostatistics and the report that Jess created came from a sample of 99 students from various departments across the school. The major takeaway from the Biostatistics report was that doctoral students thought performance on the GRE represented success in their program, while master’s-level students were more in favor of doing away with the GRE as an admission requirement. For the school-wide poll, most students seem to think the GRE does not accurately reflect their ability to succeed in a graduate program but could see how the test could be valuable to particular programs.

Karrie Lukin shared a report with school data from ASPPH that showed that most peer schools still require the GRE for admission to MPH programs. Some schools had the GRE listed as "Optional," which means students had the option to submit a GRE score to improve one's application, presumably if the applicant has a low GPA and/or a high GRE score.

The committee then went through and commented on a pro-con list developed by Dr. Documet with feedback from Dr. John Shaffer and Dr. Cindy Bryce. Committee members discussed thresholds and/or other measures that they use to evaluate applicant performance, such as grades in a particular course, and shared what criteria they use in their holistic admissions process. The committee collectively agreed that they should collect specifics and/or examples from departments to know the process from program to program. Susanna Qiao said that the school need to advertise that they have a holistic admissions process. At one point, Dr. John Shaffer asked if we had any data regarding students who transfer between programs within Pitt Public Health.

Robin Leaf took notes on the position of each program in the School regarding dropping the GRE as necessary for admission if the School decides to require it.

ACTION: Dr. Patricia Documet will update the pro-con list with comments and specifics for the next EPCC meeting and educational programs staff members will look into student transfer data.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

February 13, 2020 – 1:30-3:30 p.m. (1155 Public Health)

March 5, 2020 – 1:30-3:30 p.m. (1155 Public Health)

March 26, 2020 (April meeting) – 1:30-3:30 p.m. (1155 Public Health)