

**Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes | June 6, 2019**

Present: Jessica Burke, Mary Derkach, Ying Ding, Patricia Documet, Jim Fabisiak, Nancy Glynn, Robin Leaf, Giovanna Rappocciolo, Kimberly Rehak, and John Shaffer

The meeting was called to order at 1:31PM by Dr. Patricia Documet, chair.

New Course: BOST XXXX Introduction to Health Data Science | Ada Youk

Dr. Ada Youk presented an application for a new 2-credit course on behalf of Dr. Saumyadipta Pyne. This course is intended for the curricula of the new Biostatistics areas of concentration. Ada said that the department had been working in close conjunction with Dr. Paul Cohen from the School of Computing and Information in development of the course, so that it addresses public health content missing from ones offered at the School of Computing and Information while also avoiding as much overlap as possible. This course will be intro-level to data analysis, data cleaning, data wrangling, and visualization and primarily use R but also expose students to SQL and Python as those languages will be used in higher-level Biostatistics courses.

Committee members suggested making the fact that the course will utilize public health data more apparent on the syllabus.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that Dr. Pyne update the disability statement to the most recent version. They also suggested that Dr. Pyne find opportunities to reinforce that this course will use public health data as a way to distinguish this data science course from those offered at the School of Computing and Information. Committee members suggested adding “public health data” to the course title, course description, the learning objectives, or any combination of the latter to help make that distinction.

New Course: BOST 2038: Foundations of Statistical Data | Andriy Bandos

Dr. Andriy Bandos presented an application for a new 3-credit course designed for terminal Biostatistics master’s students. Rather than take the one-year theories sequence (BOST 2043 and BOST 2044), which has oftentimes proved a bit too advanced for master’s students, this course will feature similar material at a more introductory level but advanced enough to allow for success in the qualifying exam.

Dr Ying Ding questioned whether the BOST 2043 and BOST 2044 would be required if a student takes this new course but then decides to pursue a PhD. The answer was “yes.”

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that Dr. Bandos updates the academic integrity statement to the most recent version.

Review of course evaluations from spring term core courses | All

The committee reviewed the quantitative data course evaluations scores from the core courses. Scores for PUBHLT 2035 and PUBHLT 2034 were a bit lower than average. The committee is particularly interested in comparing scores for the communications after the fall semester, when it will be taught by a single professor. Additionally, the committee gave kudos to Dr. Jenna Carlson for the outstanding scores she received for BOST 2011.

ACTION: No action needed.

Update from Provost’s Office on GRE in graduate admissions | All

The committee briefly discussed a May 29, 2019 memorandum from the Provost's Office entitled "Use of the GRE in graduate admissions." The memo served as a reminder that the GRE is not a requirement, that schools should have conversations about requiring it for admissions purposes, and that use other considerations should also be utilized when admitting students.

The committee briefly discussed point #4 in the memo: *"Programs requiring the GRE should strongly consider processes by which this requirement could be waived for students for whom taking and reporting the test would represent a financial hardship."* Dr. John Shaffer questioned which processes were available for applicants unable to afford the GRE due to financial hardship and whether or not there should be a waiver process for the GRE as well as the WES.

Dr. Patricia Documet also asked that the GRE expirations be put on the School's Web site.

ACTION: Dr. Jessie Burke will follow up with the Provost's Office to see if the University has any recommendations or if other accommodations have been waived and what other schools have been doing with regards to the GRE.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes | All

ACTION: The committee approved the May meeting minutes.

Closed session: Spring 2019 Term Student Record Review (open only to voting members)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47PM.