Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes | April 11, 2019

Present: Cindy Bryce, Jessica Burke, Mary Derkach, Ying Ding, Patricia Documet, Jim Fabisiak, David Finegold, Nancy Glynn, Summer-Rae Haston, Robin Leaf, Giovanna Rappocciolo, Emily Russell, and John Shaffer

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm by Dr. Patricia Documet, committee chair.

Modified course re-visit: EPIDEM 2602: Application of Molecular Biomarkers in Epidemiology, Jennifer Adibi (EPIDEM)

Dr. Adibi presented the revisions to the course, EPIDEM 2602, that EPCC had requested. The course syllabus now contains further details on how students will be graded on class participation, as well as course assignments. Also, included is the information for three required lab safety modules. The course will be offered on Wednesdays and Fridays as an eight week course.

ACTION: The Committee formally approved the course with no changes.

New BIOST MS areas of concentration: Health Data Science and Computational Genomics, and Ada Youk (BIOST)

Dr. Youk presented the two new areas of concentration within the department of biostatistics master's of science degrees. The department will maintain the traditional MS degree. The concentrations were developed to keep pace with other programs across the country as well as the expansion of big data.

Both of the concentrations include BIOST core courses, and specific elective courses that they make up the content for the area of concentration.

The proposal submitted to the committee includes a mapping of the courses to the concentration areas and to the general MS BIOST degree. Also included are procedures that have been outlined for students who do not declare a concentration and/ or how students would switch concentrations mid-degree.

HUGEN shared that they will be restructuring a course (HUGEN 2070) that is currently in the list of elective courses for these two concentrations. The course will be broken up into three distinct courses, from the current singular course.

ACTION: The Committee approved the area of concentration in Health Data Science without any changes.

ACTION: The Committee approved the area of concentration in Computational Genomics with one suggestion. The Committee suggested that there be an in-person meeting with Eleanor Feingold, HUGEN department, and BIOST faculty to update and complete the list of elective courses for this area of concentration.

New course: BIOST XXXX: Capstone, Ada Youk (BIOST)

Dr. Youk presented the new course, which has been in the planning stages for a few years and prior to the new concentrations. Biostatistics has been exploring places to grow their master's program, while needing faculty who are able to assist students with their master's thesis. The course is a heavily directed, fast-paced writing course where the students are required to complete the thesis document at the end of the term. The student must meet milestones following a specified schedule. During the course, feedback will continually provide to students.

Other faculty will become involved in the course as an advisor to the student within the structure of the course. BIOST will begin the streamline advising where Ada, Jenna, and Jeanine will be the academic advisors for all MS students. The course will provide guidance to students, for example on the scope of their thesis, whether the scope is too large or too small.

Students will take this course in their last term, as they must pass the comprehensive exam prior to enrolling in this course. The course will be offered in any term when there are students who are seeking to graduate in that term.

<u>ACTION:</u> The Committee approved the course with changes and comments:
- consider how to include in the process faculty outside of department who are part of theses committees
- prep students ahead of time to facilitate them to adhere to the timeline (e.g., clarifying if the student knows of faculty to be on that a committee or if students know of existing data sets that they would like to utilize)
- ensure the timeline is consistent with timeline of university and school for graduation milestone completion and deadlines
- typo: 2nd course objective (remove Y to "the not they")

New course: BIOST 2079: Introductory Statistical Learning for Health Sciences, George Tseng (BIOST)

Dr. Tseng presented the new course to the committee. The course will be offered in the fall term. It will be a required course in the BIOST MS program, placed in the second year. The course will also be an open to any other doctoral students in the school who are early in their careers.

<u>ACTION:</u> The EPCC approved the course with changes. The committee requires the course description to be edited to 1) remove mentions of the "newly developed" area of concentration; 2) remove mentions of other course numbers/ names; and 3) make description be more general in nature.

New course: BIOST 2080: Advanced Statistical Learning, Lu Tang (BIOST)

This course builds upon BIOST 2079, as it will focus more on theoretical and methodological components, and will cover newly developed methods for the application of biostatistics evolving areas. This course will be offered to MS students in their last term and PhD students. The pre-requisites for the course are having completed statistical methods courses, programming courses in R or C++, and BIOST 2079.

ACTION: The Committee approved the course changes. The committee requires the course description to be edited to 1) remove mentions of the "newly developed" area of concentration; 2) remove mentions of other course numbers/ names; and 3) make description be more general in nature.

New course: BCHS 2XXX: Harm Reduction Approaches in Health and Public Health Settings, Mary Hawk (BCHS)

Dr. Hawk presented the new course to the committee. It is designed to introduce students to the principles of harm reduction (HR) as a conceptual approach to care rather than simply as a set of strategies. The course will incorporate a number of speakers who will address the application of HR in practice and incorporate skills building and strategy development opportunities to support the integration of HR approaches to care across a variety of settings. Dr. Hawk is interested in cross-listing course with the school of social work.

ACTION: The Committee approved the course. The committee will suggest to Dr. Hawk to consider simplifying the participation policy in the syllabus.

Approval cross-listing with School of Medicine & BCHS course: Social Networks and Health [effective fall 2019]

The new course, Social Networks and Health from the CLRES, was requested to become cross-listed with course in the department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences. The request was made between meetings and because it was favored by the Chair of BCHS and it needed to be listed for the fall, it did not require a full committee review. The Committee received the request letter from Dr. Kar-Hai Chu in the meeting documents.

ACTION: Dr. Documet approved the cross-listing.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes, All

ACTION: The committee approved the March minutes with changes: 1) add Josh Mattila, who attended the meeting; 2) complete the sentence in paragraph 1 in the action segment of the first course; and 3) correct the typos in the end of the March minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19pm.