

Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
October 7, 2021 | 1:30-3:30pm

Start meeting 1:34 pm

Present: Andriy Bandos, Kevin Broom, Cindy Bryce, Mike Dolinger, Thistle Elias, Jim Fabisiak, David Finegold, Tiffany Gary-Webb, Sohaib Khan, Josh Mattila, Ryan Minster, Aparna Ramani, Samantha Runa, Elsa Strotmeyer, and Ada Youk.

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm by Jim Fabisiak, Chair.

1. Review of Submitted Syllabus for New Course: HUGEN 30XX: Doctoral Research and Professional Skills Development, John Shaffer.

Though the work has already been done in the past, HUGEN is submitting for a formal course that will more directly differentiate, address and assess Ph.D.-specific competencies and requirements from those of M.S. and MPH students, Upper level students will present materials and class time will allow for other students to provide feedback and discuss. Guest presentations on career track issues from professionals and alumni will also be included.

EPCC discussed changes needed, such as typo, course instructor, number of credits, meeting hours, presenting work in progress, and differentiating between Program objectives and course objectives.

ACTION: EPCC unanimously voted to approve with changes discussed without requiring review before the entire committee

2. Review of Submitted Syllabus for New Course: BSPH XXXX: Public Health Threats in Suriname: From Ecosystem to Human Health, Dean Maureen Lichtveld.

While at Tulane University Dean Lichtveld had developed and taught this study abroad course for over six summer terms. This undergraduate course would be broken down in three parts: First students would spend time here in June doing readings and presenting materials and findings relevant to a trip abroad to Surinam, as well as identify a specific topic for a case study to be conducted while in-country. They would then spend two and a half weeks in Suriname writing daily reflections, listening to lectures by the Dean and Suriname officials/leaders, and go on field trips through the country and collect data for their case study. The third part will be to develop and present their case study in July after returning to Pitt.

The experience will provide for 20 hours of service learning which is set up beforehand. The intent is to link this course as an elective in the BSPH program for Summer 2022.

EPCC discussed pre-requisites needed (none), number of service hours, inclusiveness to all Pitt students, finances, and potential challenges for students with disabilities. There was also a need to reconcile discrepancies in the number of contact hours listed in 2 separate places. The Dean has been working with the Office of Study Abroad with the logistics and needs of the students. Will confirm with Kimmy Rehak and Eleanor Feingold on which courses need competencies included in the syllabus.

ACTION: EPCC unanimously voted to approve with changes discussed.

3. Review of Submitted Syllabus for New Course: HUGEN 2075: Genome Bioinformatics Thesis and Writing, Ryan Minster.

This course is designed to provide a structured forum for students in the Master of Science in Genome Bioinformatics program who are preparing to write their final thesis documents. The plan is to teach it in the first half of a semester so that the students mentoring committees have time to review work during the second half of the term. This course focuses on the writing skills needed for articulate and accurate descriptions of methods and results.

EPCC discussed students publishing, recommendations on course type, and clarification on number of revisions allowed per assignment for an H grade (one).

ACTION: EPCC voted to approve with changes discussed, with one abstention (Minster).

4. Approval of September 2021 EPCC Minutes

EPCC discussed adding the statement: "EPCC will review what other schools have done in terms of JEDI curriculum review and target what we hope to achieve. EPCC will routinely reach out to FDIC to see if there are any new developments to discuss at upcoming EPCC meeting."

ACTION: EPCC unanimously approved minutes from the September 2021 meeting with additions.

5. Open Business

Tiffany Gary-Webb discussed the Provost Diversity Awards: <https://teaching.pitt.edu/diversity/diversity-award/#Diversity-in-the-Curriculum-2017-recipients> and asked for recommendations. EPCC supported Thistle Elias, Andre Brown and Jamie Egan as potential nominees.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm.

Upcoming EPCC Meetings & Deadlines

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

Modifications

Fall courses- To the Registrar's Office (RO) February of that year, EPCC January of that year

Summer- To the RO November of the previous year, EPCC October of the previous year

Spring- To the RO September of the previous year, EPCC August of the previous year

New Courses

Fall courses- To the RO December of the previous year, EPCC November of the previous year

Spring- To the RO June of the previous year, EPCC May of the previous year

Summer- To the RO September of the previous year, EPCC August of the previous year