

**Graduate School of Public Health  
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee  
Meeting Minutes | April 9, 2015**

Present: Robert Coulter, Eleanor Feingold, Patricia Opresko, Elizabeth Rodgers, Candace Kammerer, Robin Leaf, Patricia Documet, Wes Rohrer, Joyce Bromberger, Mary Derkach, David Finegold, Varun Sharma, Yue Chen, Marissa Kaplan

Absent: Jane Clougherty, Ying Ding

Guests: Emma Barinas-Mitchell, Christina Maier

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Candace Kammerer, Chair.

**Course modification: EPIDEM 2152, Emma Barinas-Mitchell**

Dr. Emma Barinas-Mitchell presented course modifications for EPIDEM 2152. Dr. Barinas-Mitchell mentioned that while the overall theme of the course remains the same, the individual modules of the course change from term to term and are very much influenced by the interests of each group of students. The EPCC would like Dr. Barinas-Mitchell to mention this in the course description. This fact is mentioned in the course syllabus, but this information would also be useful for students to see as they are choosing which courses to take.

Action: Robin Leaf will send Dr. Barinas-Mitchell an official approval letter informing her that, pending the above-mentioned change, the new course title has been approved.

**Approval of March meeting minutes**

A few changes need to be made to the March EPCC meeting minutes.

1. After further review, Dr. Candace Kammerer realized that what the EPCC interpreted as the new course descriptions were actually the old course descriptions. The new course descriptions are in line with what the EPCC expects and are thus approved.
2. There is a typo that needs to be updated. What is listed as BCHS 3105 should be BCHS 3015.
3. The sentence about the MOOC Independent Study course not costing students is misleading and should be removed from the minutes.

Dr. David Finegold motioned to approve the March meeting minutes pending the above changes. Dr. Wes Rohrer second the motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor. There were no abstentions or objections.

Action: Marissa Kaplan will make all of the above updates.

**Course modification: BCHS 3015, Christina Mair**

Dr. Christina Mair presented a proposal for course modifications for BCHS 3015. The content of this course will remain more or less the same. Dr. Mair will be changing the title of the course with the goal of addressing a broader range of topics and making the course more accessible to BCHS students. She also plans on using QGIS, a free, open source geographic information tool. After speaking with colleagues who use this software, she decided to use QGIS because it works well and is much more affordable for students. She believes the course will still be a good intro to the Spatial Analysis Course, however, BCHS 3015 is not a prerequisite for that course. The course is

open to students outside of BCHS, however, BCHS students will be given preference. Dr. Wes Rohrer motioned to approve the course modifications pending the changes below. Robert Coulter seconded the motion to approve, pending changes. All were in favor. There were no objections or abstentions.

Action: Dr. Mair will change answer 8a from “1/2” to “one or two” on the Request for Approval of New Courses and Course Changes Form.

Action: Dr. Mair will also change the typo in the first sentence of answer 11a: the course is *not* part of the Health Equity Certificate.

Action: Dr. Mair will choose a different action verb for learning objectives one and three, preferably to a verbs that more measureable than “understand.”

Action: Robin Leaf will send Dr. Mair an official EPCC approval letter.

### **Review of longitudinal core course evaluation overall effectiveness scores**

Members of the EPCC reviewed a longitudinal study of overall teaching effectiveness scores for Pitt Public Health core courses. Members agreed that scores between 3.5 and 4 indicated an acceptable level of performance,, but that scores less than 3 were cause for concern, especially if the scores had not improved over time. The BIOST 2011 course had low scores and the committee members agreed that a letter expressing the committee's concern should be sent to the Chair of the Biostatistics Department. After the CEPH site visit, the EPCC will revisit BIOST 2011 and also review the Public Health Overview course. The committee thought the MPH committee would provide insights into possibly restructuring the Overview course. Suggestions for improving the Public Health Overview course included increasing the number of credits from one to three, which might allow the instructor to give a more in-depth overview.

Action: Dr. Eleanor Feingold will share new CEPH accreditation requirements for core courses after the site visits take place.

Action: Dr. Kammerer will ask Dr. Martha Terry if the MPH Committee will consider reviewing/restructuring the Public Health Overview course.

### **Accreditation Site Visit**

EPCC members, department chairs, and students are all expected to attend the accreditation site visit sessions.

Action: Department chairs should respond to the Doodle poll indicating their availability.

Action: Students should let Robin know if/when they will be sitting in on the site visit sessions.

Action: Dr. Feingold/Robin Leaf will send EPCC members site visit instructions and agendas for review soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

The next meeting is May 14, 1:30-3:30p.m., 110 Parran Hall.

Future items for discussion/ action at upcoming meetings: N/A