Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes | February 2, 2017

Present: Yue Chen, Mary Derkach, Ying Ding, Patricia Documet, Julia Driessen, Jim Fabisiak, Eleanor Feingold, David Finegold, Nancy Glynn, Robin Leaf, Sarah Minion, and John Shaffer

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm by Dr. Patricia Documet, Chair.

Course Modification EPIDEM 2610 *Molecular epidemiology – tools and techniques*
Dr. Jennifer Adibi, EPIDEM, as the primary instructor for this course presented this course modification. The course was previously taught by another faculty in the department. Drs. Adibi and Kuipers will collaborate and share the teaching the course. The course is designed for students who have a basic understanding of the central dogma theory, but who may not have any prior experience in the laboratory. This course contains both lectures and an emphasis on practical learning and application in wet and computer lab settings.

The course title will be changed from Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory, and the credits will change from two to three.

Action: The committee requested that Jennifer bring the revised syllabus to the committee for the March 2, 2017 meeting. An e-mail correspondence will sent with the feedback to revise the learning objectives to all be measurable. The correspondence will also include Bloom's Taxonomy to assist in this process.

Schedule for BIOST Core Course for Next Year
Eleanor Feingold informed the committee that the schedule for the BIOST core course could again be modified. She noted that we do not have enough information on the needs of the departments/ programs who rely on this course. We need to know whether they prefer the spring semester over the fall semester, whether the students like timing of the courses better, and whether the students taking the EPIDEM core course in fall without taking BIOST at the same time, if they had difficulty with the EPIDEM 2110 course.

Eleanor will go back to the departmental program directors to inquire as to what their preference is and whether there were any major issues with the 2016-17 academic year offering of the BIOST core courses. The option would be to move the course back to the fall. The BCHS, HPM, and HUGEN EPCC representatives are also asked to go back to their departments to discuss this further and report back.

Action: The MPH program directors will be consulted on whether to move BIOST 2011 back to the fall semester.

Writing Course for Next Year
Eleanor Feingold reminded the committee that the first take on the professional writing course occurred in the fall 2016 semester. She would like to offer the course again in the fall 2017 semester. The OMET evaluations for the course were good. Eleanor and the instructor, Steve Fine, recently met and discussed the course and how things went during this first offering. The intention is to offer the course in the fall, the syllabus and course content will remain the same, the title and description may need to be modified. The day and time will remain the same.

Action: Eleanor will review the course description and title to bring the modifications to the next EPCC meeting, if applicable.

Updates from the Associate Dean for Education
The school is working to move forward with making the necessary changes to the curriculum from the latest CEPH criteria. Jeremy Martinson has already implemented most changes into PUBHLT 2011 (Public Health Essentials), and the MPH committee is currently working on the degree level competencies. The committee will receive updates on the progress moving forward.

Review of Fall 2016 Semester Core Course Evaluations
The committee reviewed the course and instructor evaluations for: BCHS 2509, BIOST 2041, EPIDEM 2110, HPM 2001, PUBHLT 2015, PUBHLT 2016, and PUBHLT 2031. All evaluations were satisfactory to the committee.

Action: None

GRE vs. EPIDEM Grades from Fall 2016 Semester
Eleanor Feingold reviewed the GRE scores and EPIDEM 2110 student grades and reported that the mean GREs for students were lower for students with lower EPIDEM 2110 grades, and vice versa. The correlation between verbal GRE and EPIDEM grades were the same between quantitative GRE scores and grades. For the next meeting she will bring the data plots with her for the committee to review.

Next steps and research from GRE requirement discussion
The committee reviewed a list of 12 public health schools and/ or programs who do not require GRE scores for entrance into master's and/ or doctoral programs, and the list of schools who waived GRE scores. The schools who do not require the GRE are not in our list of peer or aspirational schools. It was noted that departments and programs can decide to waive the GRE on extenuating circumstances.

The committee reviewed a literature review prepared by Robin included segments on: attitudes towards standardized tests, testing biases, application review reform, and the future of standardized admissions testing.

After reviewing the literature, the committee reaffirmed that departments/ program can always set their own thresholds and make exceptions on requiring GRE scores on a case-by-case basis. It was

agreed upon that GRE scores will remain a school requirement for admissions, but that they are to be viewed as only one piece of the entire application package for admission.

Action: A letter will be sent to Dr. Mark Friedman informing him that the committee recently reviewed a list of public health schools/ programs who do not require the GRE for admission and a literature review on GRE testing biases. This letter will note that the committee's viewpoint on the GRE requirement will not change and if new evidence develops, the committee would be happy to entertain another proposal.

Action: The committee commended Robin for the research she completed to educate the committee in this important area.

Template for Bulk Changes of Minor Course Descriptions

Robin Leaf created a template for the submission of bulk course description updates. The template is to be utilized when there are minor updates that need to be made to course descriptions (e.g. simplify the description, edit description to be more concise, remove unnecessary details).

Action: The template was approved and it will be uploaded to the web.

The January Meeting Minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at for a student record review closed session at 2:56pm.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, March 2, 1-30-3:30 pm in room A521 Crabtree Hall.