

Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes | October 21, 2015

Present: Quinten Brown, Patricia Opresko, Cindy Bryce, Eleanor Feingold, Yue Chen, Robin Leaf, Patricia Documet, Zsolt Urban, Nancy Glynn, Mary Derkach, Ying Ding, Julia Driessen, David Finegold

Absent: John Shaffer, Hristina Denic, Taru Gupta

Guests: Alan Juffs, Dorolyn Smith

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Patricia Documet, Chair.

English Language Institute Course for Pitt Public Health Students - Alan Juffs

There have been multiple discussions school-wide pertaining to improving the communication skills of Pitt Public Health students. Recently, the shift has focused more on non-native English speaking students. Alan Juffs and Dorolyn Smith from the English Language Institute were guest during October EPCC meeting. They outlined several options for improving the communication skills of our non-english speaking student population. They outlined the courses they've created for both the Engineering school, and GSPIA. With input from our school's faculty, ELI can create a course specific to our school's needs. This customization includes course content, credit or non-credit, and even assistance with I-20 visa issues.

The EPCC departmental representatives discussed if their departments would be interested in having their students participate in this course. Whether this course would take place in the fall or spring was also discussed. This discussion with the ELI was the next step in a larger process, and it was helpful to hear what options are available to us from within the university.

ACTION – Departmental representatives are going to discuss the ELI, and what they have to offer, with their departmental leadership.

Math Boot Camp for Incoming Students – Julia Driessen

Julia Driessen had noticed issues with student's fundamental math competency in the HPM Health Economics course. This spawned the creation of a math boot camp, which takes place during HPM's orientation. This boot camp has been successful in helping students sharpen their basic math skills before entering their courses, and Julia thought it might be beneficial to expand the boot camp to other departments. Expanding the boot camp is going to take some additional planning, but Julia wanted the school to know about this.

ACTION – Cindy Bryce and Julia will move this forward by discussing scheduling possibilities, content, etc.

Gauging Departmental Interest: *Introduction to Translational Research in the Health Sciences* – Cindy Bryce

Cindy Bryce spearheaded a discussion regarding PUBHLT 3000 – Introduction to Translational Research in the Health Sciences. This course was developed by the CTSI to be given across the Health Sciences. Cindy explained to the group that not only did this course expose students to translational research, it also exposed students to the world of interdisciplinary collaboration. Cindy wanted to gauge the interest of our school's departments regarding whether their students might want to take this course.

ACTION - Departmental representatives are going to discuss PUBHLT 300 with their departmental leadership.

ACTION – Quinten Brown will send out the full syllabus to the committee.

New Course: EPI 2143, *Social Epidemiology* – Review of Resubmitted Syllabus

Previously, EPCC approved Dr. Anthony Fabio's course, but wanted to see a resubmitted syllabus. After reviewing the resubmitted syllabus, Patricia Documet will reach out to Dr. Fabio with suggestions to improve the syllabus. The suggestions/issues are very minor.

New Course Submission Announcement – Robin Leaf

New courses for spring 2016 need to be submitted to EPCC for their November meeting.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Correction – Ying Ding attended September's meeting.

EPCC Standard Operating Procedures – Patricia Documet

In order for the committee to run efficiently, Patricia would like for the standard operating procedures to be written down in a manual of sorts. This topic will be discussed during later EPCC meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next meeting is November 18, 1:30-3:30p.m., 110 Parran Hall.

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