

Minutes – MPH Coordinating Meeting
January 25, 2008

Meeting Began: 10:30 am

Members Present: Dr. Betsy Barrett, Dr. David Dzewaltowski, Dr. Lisa Freeman, Dr. Dan Fung, Dr. Mark Haub, Dr. Carol Ann Holcomb, Dr. Mary McElroy, Dr. Manuel Moro, Dr. Deanna Retzlaff

Special Guest: Dr. Denis Medeiros, Department of Human Nutrition

Conference Call with the KU School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health

- Dr. Won Choi, MPH Program Director, was the representative for KU
- The KU program is currently at 42 credit hour program that requires the 5 core courses, elective course work, and a 6 hour practicum
 - There are no emphasis areas and the awarded degree is a general MPH degree
 - Other departments are used to fulfill elective requirements
 - All students are required to complete the 6 hour practicum and present and defend a write up of the experience
 - Students wishing to have a more research focused experience and write a thesis complete the Master of Science in Clinical Research degree
 - Degree is designed to produce better clinical researchers
 - The practicum only aspect of the program is the result of a 2003 site visit by the accrediting organization
 - The accreditation team promoted the practicum focus because the MPH is a practical degree and students don't really need the research experience
 - The program accepts both traditional and non-traditional students
 - Approximately 100 students are currently enrolled
 - New enrollment has been capped to accept 25 students at the Kansas City campus and 5-7 at the Wichita campus per year
 - There are 15 faculty members at the Kansas City campus and 7-8 at the Wichita campus
 - Adjunct faculty are also used in the teaching of courses
 - Number of faculty currently limiting growth of program
- Development of a School of Public Health
 - Currently trying to get support to move forward with the development of a School of Public Health
 - The number of faculty must be increased and three doctoral programs must be formed in order to meet the requirements to become a school

- The Department of Health Policy and Management can provide one doctoral program
 - The Department of Biostatistics is in the process of developing a new PhD program that would count as the second program
 - The third PhD program could be a potential collaboration between the Department of Preventive Medicine at KU and Kansas State University
 - Potential ideas include a Doctorate in Public Health Leadership
 - Collaboration with K-State on a public health, nutrition, physical activity degree is an option
 - Currently there are no plans to form a new department or to make K-State part of the Department of Preventive Medicine
 - The main starting point regarding of the School of Public Health would be to collaborate on the development of a doctoral program
- Current collaboration with the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition
 - MPH students take courses from the department
 - Faculty have been involved with the advisement of students
 - Dr. Choi feels the department would be an important player if a School of Public Health is formed
- Possible timeline
 - Currently working on obtaining funds to start moving forward
 - All three doctoral programs need to be established
 - A faculty group has been set up at KU to explore the demand for public health PhD programs
 - Will need at least one year to get approval of the PhD program with Board of Regents
- Role of Lawrence Campus
 - Limited cross collaboration with Lawrence campus
 - Only collaboration thus far as been with the Department of Applied and Behavioral Science
 - Currently have a joint PhD/MPH degree program
- Student currently enrolled in the MPH program are a mix of clinicians, students direct from undergraduate programs, and individuals from private industry
 - KU would like their students to have some public health experience, but it is not a strict requirement
- There is no current BS/MPH option
 - KU would like to get more involved with undergraduate education by developing a public health focus on both the Lawrence campus and at Haskell Indian Nations University that would streamline students into the MPH program
- There is potential for course collaboration between the two universities in the areas of vet medicine, nutrition, and physical activity

- Students at KU could use courses from these departments to fulfill elective requirements
- The phone call ended with plans for setting up a face to face meeting in late February or early March

Discussion following conference call

- KU appears to be very departmentally based with little to no interaction with other departments within the university or outside
- The recommendation of the site visit team was probably made based on the makeup of the team and accreditation board at that time
- The Kansas Health Foundation is currently promoting the development of leadership programs by providing funding and that may explain the idea of a Leadership in Public Health degree
- The committee agreed that dialog should continue with a focus on course collaboration with the possible for further involvement
- Vet Med would also be interested in potential collaboration with the MS in Clinical Research degree
- On-line biostatistics courses would be of benefit to MPH students at K-State

Minutes from the November 30, 2007 meeting were approved.

Revision to the public health nutrition and physical activity combo area of emphasis

- All 18 of the responding nutrition and physical activity voted in favor of the revised curriculum
- Dr. Haub moved the changes be accepted, motion was seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved

Challenge Grant Update

- Dr. Freeman provided the committee with an update on the progress of the grant proposal
 - A full text copy of the grant should be ready by Monday, January, 28, 2008 and each committee member will be receiving a copy
 - Participation by Dodge City Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, and Johnson County Community College have all been confirmed
 - A max of 50% of the funding can go to the lead institution and participating institutions must receive at least 10%
 - Each of the community colleges has expressed that they want to be involved in the development of the new course
 - This could possibly be the first co-developed course between a junior college and 4-year university
 - The grant outlines the new Undergraduate Director of Public Health position that will be responsible for guiding the program
 - Salary is set at \$60,000 with matching contributions from the grant and Vet School

- The BS/MPH degree program has been outlined in the grant
- Several groups have written support for matching funds
 - Dr. Trewyn's office has pledged \$108,000 for scholarships to support students during summer experience
 - All community colleges requested that the summer experiences be fully funded
- Funding decisions by the USDA for the grant will be made in late spring or early summer

Provost Meeting

- A meeting with Dr. Holcomb, Provost Nellis, Interim Dean Shanklin, Dean Cholick, Dean White, Dean Moxley, and Associate Dean Freeman will be held this afternoon to discuss a funding base for the MPH program
- Dr. Holcomb will email the committee an update from the events of the meeting

Announcements

- A retirement dinner will be held in Dr. Holcomb's honor on Saturday, April 26, 2008 in the K-State Student Union