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
  o  There are no emphasis areas and the awarded degree is a general MPH degree
    ▪  Other departments are used to fulfill elective requirements
  o  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
  o  The program accepts both traditional and non-traditional students
  o  Approximately 100 students are currently enrolled
  o  New enrollment has been capped to accept 25 students at the Kansas City campus and 5-7 at the Wichita campus per year
  o  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
  o  Currently trying to get support to move forward with the development of a School of Public Health
  o  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 biostatics 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

  o A full text copy of the grant should be ready by Monday, January 28, 2008 and each committee member will be receiving a copy

  o Participation by Dodge City Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, and Johnson County Community College have all been confirmed

  o A max of 50% of the funding can go to the lead institution and participating institutions must receive at least 10%

  o 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

  o 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