

Meeting Notes
MPH Coordinating Committee Meeting
Friday, September 12, 2008
10:30 am N-202 Mosier Hall (Vet Med Complex)

Attending: Bob Larson, Dan Fung, David Dzewaltowski, Deanna Retzlaff, Betsy Barrett, Lisa Freeman, Mark Haub, Richard Rosenkranz, Sandy Proctor

Guest: Kimathi Choma

Bob Larson, Chair of the MPH Director Search Committee reported that three candidates have been identified to interview and that interviews are being scheduled for October and November. The first candidate to be interviewed will be Diana Stone, MPH, DVM, PhD on October 8 and 9. Terry Gosch, DVM, MPH, MBA, MSS will be interviewed on October 29 and 30. And, Michael Cates, DVM, MPH will be interviewed in November.

Bob Larson also reported that three candidates for the MPH Program Assistant position will be interviewed on Monday, September 15th. Bob asked for the committee's thoughts on having an MPH student fill the role considering that the Program Assistant will have access to student files and other sensitive information. There were no objections from the group and the group supported the idea of using an MPH student if that person is the best candidate.

Kimathi Choma, the Director of Undergraduate Public Health Programs was introduced to the group and he gave a report on his activities. Dr. Choma is a veterinarian and a current MPH student who is providing leadership to the program funded by the USDA to work with Dodge City Community College, Kansas City Community College, and Johnson County Community College to create and deliver an introductory public health course and initiate contact with community college students with an interest in public health. The Program will have link on the MPH web page.

Lisa Freeman reported that the Kansas Health Foundation has formally requested a proposal, which will be submitted soon. The funding success for requested proposals is very high and if successful will provide about 2.3 million dollars over three years to develop 'One Health Kansas', an approach to public health that promotes awareness and understanding of the interconnections among human, animal and environmental health - zoonoses. In addition to the tremendous value this grant has for the KSU MPH Program, the positions funded by this proposal should serve as a positive enticement as we recruit for the Director position.

Emphasis area reports:

Infectious Disease/Zoonosis:

- Bob Larson reported that the DMP faculty requested that four courses (DMP 712, DMP 722, DMP 753, DMP 801) that are included in the veterinary curriculum and are listed as potential electives for MPH students have an asterisks added that indicates that students must receive instructor permission to enroll. The request is based on the fact that the classroom has limited room for additional students, and the instructors want to have the ability to limit enrollment.
 - The committee agreed to the request. The statement, “with permission of instructor” will be added to the webpage and the Advisor Notebooks for the classes above
- Bob Larson reported that the instructors for DMP 806, Environmental Toxicology request that a disclaimer be added that states “There may be prerequisites based on the student’s previous training”. This request is based on the fact that students with very little biology background struggle in the class and would benefit from an introductory toxicology course.
 - The committee did not agree to the request for a change on the website, but instead agreed to a note in the Advisor Notebook that informs the advisors of the situation and to talk to the course coordinator about specific students as needed.
 - David Dzewaltowski pointed out that as the MPH program grows, we will need to address the underlying issue that we are using existing courses intended for other purposes to serve as core MPH courses.

Food Safety:

- Dan Fung suggested that we have a day to recognize the MPH students and faculty similar to the “KSU Excellence in Food Science XIX” day held today. The day could include an opportunity for students to present some of their work and for faculty and students to interact in an academic/social atmosphere. Dr. Fung offered to provide funding for refreshments if we initiate such an event.
 - The committee supported the idea and a day during Public Health week (April 7-13, 2008) was suggested
- Dr. Fung announced that Godfrey Nkwantabisa finished his degree last Friday (Sept 5) and is already stationed in Korea in the U.S. Army.

Human Nutrition: No report

Physical Activity: No report

Announcements:

- Bob Larson requested that Field Experience reports be posted to the MPH website. The committee agreed - with the constraint that the major professor and student will need to ensure that confidentiality issues will not be compromised by posting.
- Bob Larson reported that he attended a planning meeting for a Target Excellence proposal focused on agricultural health and safety. The PI for the proposal (Mitch Ricketts) asked if the MPH Program would be interested in developing a new emphasis area in occupational safety that would provide synergy with their proposal.
 - Feedback from the committee was cautiously supportive. Comments indicated that KSU does have some unique strengths in this area and could provide a broader range of MPH training options with the addition of a new emphasis area, but the support was tempered by comments indicating that we are still developing our existing structure and are probably not ready to expand at this time.
 - The committee requested that Mitch Ricketts be invited to the Coordinating Committee meeting to both present the TE proposal and to learn more about the MPH Program.

The meeting was adjourned