

**K-State MPH Executive Council Meeting
Weber Hall, Room 233 (Heritage Room)
Monday, March 23, 2015 – 10:30 AM
Minutes**

In attendance: Cates (MPH Director); Chengappa (DMP); Gadbury (STAT); Harms (KIN); Haub (HN); Odde (AS&I); Stevenson (MPH office, non-voting)

Absent: LeHew (HMD); Rush (CS); Spooner (BIOL)

1. **Call to Order.** Dr. Odde called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. There was a quorum present.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The council approved the minutes from October 27, 2014 as distributed, and they will be posted to the MPH website and K-State Online.
3. **Old Business:** None
4. **New Business:**

a. MPH Program Director's Report (Attachment 1): Dr. Cates referred the group to his report and briefly reviewed it. The discussion focused on how to provide incentives for faculty working with MPH students. This year the MPH program has a budget line to reward faculty through Development Reserve Accounts. Also, the MPH Program purchased a Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) large institutional membership so that all MPH faculty could be members of that organization.

Dr. Cates also referred the group to the recommendations in his report. As a point of reference, almost 50% of KU's MPH faculty hold MPH degrees and we have only two faculty that have MPH degrees. He briefly discussed the new proposed CEPH curricular standards and how it will challenge our program and its volunteer faculty.

b. CEPH Interim Report. Dr. Cates reminded the group that the interim report is due April 28, 2015, and the draft is still available for review on the K-State Online Executive Council site. He said he plans to provide the draft to the provost for her review after the deans meet on Friday, March 27.

c. Programmatic Assessment (Attachment 2). Dr. Cates referred the group to the Fall 2014 survey results for programmatic review and assessment. The group discussed several items, including the sharing of costs for the program and the need for the deans to be advocates for the program with the Provost. The authority for the program needs to be aligned with the responsibility for the program.

There was a discussion of joint faculty positions and if they help or hinder the program. It was felt that as long as the faculty member received "credit" for their work with the MPH program by their department head there was no problem but documenting the contribution is a good idea. Dr. Chengappa used the example of Dr. Nguyen's efforts in designing MPH 802. He documented her efforts as other contributions toward promotion and tenure progress.

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d. **MPH Primary Faculty.** Dr. Cates reminded the group that CEPH requires three individual primary faculty members for each emphasis area, and that each must be full time, with at least 50% FTE toward the program and with responsibility for teaching an MPH-related course. Food safety is interviewing in the vacant position due to the retirement of Dr. Fung.

5. **Future Meeting:** Fall 2015.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Attachment 1

MPH Program Director's Report

1. MPH Program Statistics:
 - a. MPH Graduates: total of 125, 5-year average of 18 per year (KBOR standard is 5)
 - b. Official enrollment: 67 in Fall 2014, 5-year average of 73 (KBOR standard is 20)
 - c. New Students: 33 for AY 2015
 - d. Current students (progressing toward MPH degree): 85
 - i. Infectious Diseases/Zoonoses: 58
 - ii. Public Health Nutrition: 14
 - iii. Public Health Physical Activity: 7
 - iv. Food Safety/Biosecurity: 6
 - e. Enrolled Spring 2015: 73 for degree (8 additional for Certificate only)
2. Interim Report to CEPH is due April 28, 2015. Draft reviewed by Faculty Advisory Council and is still available for review on K-State Online sites. Our plan is to submit to Provost Mason for her review after MPH Board of Directors meeting on Friday, March 27, 2015.
3. MPH 802, Environmental Health, has been proposed by DMP/CVM as new core course. It has been approved by MPH faculty and is with the Graduate Council in the approval process. We plan for the new course and curriculum to take effect in Fall 2015.
4. Our routine programmatic assessment continued through the fall, and we have provided you the most recent survey results on the K-State Online site. There are no new issues.
5. Field Experience information:
 - a. 106 placements; 59 different sites
 - b. 36 new sites since start of accreditation self-study
6. Public Health Engagement by Program Director
 - a. Kansas Public Health Association Board of Directors and Executive Committee
 - b. Kansas Public Health Systems Group
 - c. Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council
 - d. Riley County Public Health Advisory Council
 - e. Mercy Regional Health Center Board of Directors
7. Recommendations:
 - a. More dedicated MPH faculty (those equal to or greater than 50% to program)
 - b. Governance and fiscal structure which provides adequate incentives to MPH faculty, adequate advocacy for the program, and appropriate cost-sharing among partners.

Kansas State University Master of Public Health

Survey Results

- **Alumni Survey**
- **Mid-Program Survey**
- **Exit Survey**

December 2014

Attachment 2

Scale: 1 to 5 where 1 = Very Poorly and 5 = Very well. Any response of Not Applicable is excluded from the mean calculation. Percent of responses with a score of 3 - 5. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Survey Questions	Totals by AY					Totals
	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	(n=25)	(n=3)	(n=13)		(n=12)	(n=53)
How well did the K-State MPH program prepare you for your current career?	90%	100%	100%	n/a	83%	91%

Thinking back to your K-State MPH experience, how satisfied were you with:

Scale: 1 to 4 where 1 = Very Dissatisfied and 4 = Very Satisfied.

Percent of responses with a score of 3 - 4. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Survey Questions	Totals by AY					Totals
	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	(n=25)	(n=3)	(n=13)		(n=12)	(n=53)
Core curriculum courses	92%	67%	92%	n/a	92%	90%
Quality of instruction by faculty	96%	67%	100%	n/a	83%	92%
Accessibility of faculty	96%	100%	92%	n/a	92%	94%
Quality of academic advising	83%	100%	85%	n/a	75%	83%
Quality of relationships with faculty	92%	100%	77%	n/a	75%	85%
Quality of relationships with other students	88%	100%	62%	n/a	75%	79%
Quality of research opportunities in the program	88%	100%	77%	n/a	42%	75%
Overall academic experience in the K-State MPH program	92%	100%	92%	n/a	83%	90%

Scale: 1 to 5 where 1 = No, under no circumstances and 5 = Yes, with no reservations.

Percent of responses with a score of 3 - 5. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Survey Questions	Totals by AY					Totals
	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	(n=25)	(n=3)	(n=13)		(n=12)	(n=53)
Would you recommend the K-State MPH program to a friend considering a graduate program in public health?	96%	100%	85%	n/a	100%	94%

Please share any final comments you may have about your experiences in the MPH program and/or its effectiveness in preparing you for work in the public health field.

#	Comments	Comment Date
1	I don't know what to say here. My final comment remains the same as those I already developed above.	3/11/2013
2	My degree has not helped me yet. Most of the public health jobs I applied for also wanted a nursing degree along with the MPH degree. I'm doing the same job now that I was doing before schooling and the debt I incurred. Not sure I would have pursued this degree if I'd known trying to get a job in infectious diseases would be this difficult.	3/11/2013
3	I absolutely loved K-State and I overall enjoyed what I learned in my MPH classes, but I felt like it was a little to laissez faire. I would recommend K-State to almost anyone, but I would not give the MPH program a very good recommendation.	3/11/2013
4	Overall, the experience I had obtaining my MPH at KSU was great!	3/11/2013

Attachment 2

5	Even though I focused more on research than practice during the MPH program and I am now an active practitioner, the research has helped me tremendously in my current position.	3/11/2013
6	I definitely enjoyed my experience in the MPH program. It was a field that I came into kind of by accident, but found a great interest in it. I liked that I had the opportunity to focus on an area of public health that was particularly interesting to me. And I do feel that it has helped in my current field of work. Even though I am not working in a specific public health field, I can apply certain aspects of what I have learned to improve our farming operation. Overall I was satisfied with my experience in the MPH Program.	3/11/2013
7	My MPH and GTA position have taught me much about program coordination, grant management, and basic needs to public health education. I hope to see this degree go into working use once I have obtained my BSN, RN in December 2013.	3/14/2013
8	I am very satisfied with my experience in the public health program at Kansas State University.	3/15/2013
9	I would like to see the program incorporate more promotion/education for practical certifications that could help make graduates more marketable. For example, a community health education specialist certification or a geographic information systems certification could be promoted to improve practical knowledge.	3/15/2013
10	Feel very well prepared. I work alongside others that are in tremendous debt and have the same degree and often I find myself just as knowledgeable and prepared to work if not more.	9/24/2014
11	I enjoyed my MPH program experience. I just wish there was more assistance once I graduated in searching for a job, or at least more opportunities while in the program to get hands on experience.	9/25/2014
12	I have been asked in interviews if I really thought my Master's degree added to my understanding of the field: if it was a 'necessary' part of making me qualified for the position. My response: Absolutely! I found the graduate school experience infinitely more enjoyable and useful in expanding my knowledge and helping me find my strengths and weaknesses. Although I do not apply most of the areas of emphasis directly to my work, I am happy to have a knowledge base in them, and it helps me see the bigger picture of Public Health as I focus in my one small piece of it: corporate wellness.	9/29/2014
13	I am not currently working in the public health field. I loved my advisor and overall thought the program was good but needed improvements to have better more qualified students.	10/14/2014

Attachment 2

Provide your overall rating of the following:

Scale: 1 to 4 where 1 = Poor and 4 = Excellent.

Percent of responses with a score of 3 - 4. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Survey Questions	Totals by AY					Totals
	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	(n=45)		(n=22)	(n=11)	(n=15)	(n=93)
Services provided by the Master of Public Health Program Office	96%	n/a	86%	100%	100%	95%

Please indicate your level of knowledge of the five MPH SLO.

Scale: 1 to 5 where 1 = None and 5 = Very Knowledgeable. Any response of Not Applicable is excluded from the mean calculation.

Percent of responses with a score of 4 - 5. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Survey Questions	Totals by AY					Totals
	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	(n=45)		(n=22)	(n=11)	(n=15)	(n=93)
Biostatistics	33%	n/a	50%	50%	60%	43%
Environmental Health Sciences	51%	n/a	77%	50%	73%	61%
Epidemiology	80%	n/a	86%	70%	73%	79%
Health Services Administration	55%	n/a	68%	80%	73%	64%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	64%	n/a	77%	90%	73%	72%

What aspect of the program has been the most positive in your first year?

#	Comments	Comment Date
1	The MPH does a good job keeping students informed about different things going on and different deadlines. Good communication.	10/16/2013
2	Learning the basics about approaches to public health.	10/16/2013
3	I don't quite know how to answer that. The accumulation of experience I have had during my first year opened my eyes to countless things. Rather than one aspect, I'd say my positive experience was multifaceted.	10/21/2013
4	The most positive aspect has been the communication between the MPH coordinators and students.	10/22/2013
5	the online courses	10/22/2013
6	physiology	11/7/2013
7	Even with its diversity, the core curriculum is well-crafted to provide a great overview of the public health functional areas. The IDZ-specific courses have been excellent.	12/12/2013
8	My classes dealing with social sciences	12/17/2013
9	The teachers have been very willing to help and made themselves readily available.	9/25/2014
10	variety of courses that were interesting and applicable to my interests within public health	9/25/2014
11	The core courses have been helping me to understand how I can approach health care problems in multiple levels	9/25/2014
12	Interaction with the office. On-line offerings	9/28/2014
13	The exposure to different aspects of public health was an eye-opening experience.	9/29/2014
14	Research experience	10/14/2014
15	The One Health Concepts	10/14/2014
16	over-all knowledge and program diversity	10/14/2014
17	I really enjoy the courses and the ability to pace your own schedules as needed.	10/14/2014
18	The most positive aspect so far has been having instructors who, even though an online medium,	10/15/2014

Attachment 2

	show genuine concern for student development and are willing to work with students who have constraints based on time or location in the world.	
19	I have found all faculty to be extremely helpful and accommodating via email and with personal meetings for providing clarity and insight.	10/15/2014
20	Loved Epidemiology	10/17/2014
21	Administration of Health Care Organization, Nutritional Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Public Health Nutrition, Social and Behavioral Science, Functional Food	10/23/2014
22	Ability to get involved with existing health promotion projects	11/10/2014
23	Making the classes online!	11/18/2014

Mid-Program Survey: What has been the most challenging part of the program for you this year?

#	Comments	Comment Date
1	Some of the core courses seem tailored more towards a specific area and have been very difficult for someone without a background in that area. (Environmental Toxicology was especially difficult, Biostatistics, and Physiology-I know they are working on changing this)	10/16/2013
2	Online classes, classes shared between undergrads and MPH.	10/16/2013
3	Taking the human body class while taking three other courses pertaining to my MPH. I am taking Human Body as a prerequisite for a PhD. Program I applied to. I will say though, it has helped me tremendously in understanding many aspects that the MPH program encompasses, as well as enlightening me even further on the absolutely fascinating system that is the human body.	10/21/2013
4	The most challenging part of the program has been finding a field experience that meets the MPH requirements.	10/22/2013
5	making appointments with all my advisers at the same time	10/22/2013
6	Getting all the paperwork in to the department. (Program of study, field experience contract)	10/29/2013
7	contacting teachers	11/7/2013
8	I have not had a very good experience with Biostatistics	12/9/2013
9	Some of the online courses have design difficulties. One of the STAT classes had no [adequate] lecture notes/slides, connection to textbook concepts, and only benefited auditory learners. Other online courses are restrictive (i.e. ONLY contact via message board, even if on-campus student) and not very well organized. I have not been impressed with the quality of online offerings.	12/12/2013
10	I found the epidemiology classes challenging.	12/17/2013
11	Being a long distance student I don't get the opportunity to interact with instructors and other students.	9/25/2014
12	I think that finding my committee members	9/25/2014
13	Taking courses while holding a full-time job. Also, real-time, on-site courses are better for me than virtual.	9/28/2014
14	Reprogramming my brain to study and write reports again.	9/29/2014
15	I had a poor experience with biostatistics and am struggling to learn it over again this year, without a teacher.	10/14/2014
16	Getting through the core courses. Many I found too dry and simplistic	10/14/2014
17	Having to take classes at other institutions that K-state does not offer via distance learning as of yet.	10/14/2014
18	Deciding on a field experience	10/14/2014
19	The most challenging aspect of the program for me personally is balancing a full time job with my course work.	10/15/2014
20	Adviser who is not a good fit for me	10/17/2014
21	Graduate Seminar HN 880	10/23/2014
22	External work load	11/10/2014
23	Making time for the class work.	11/18/2014

Attachment 2

Scale: 1 to 4 where 1 = Very Dissatisfied and 4 = Very Satisfied.

Percent of responses with a score of 3 - 4. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Survey Questions -- How satisfied were you with the ...	Measurable	Totals by AY					Totals
	Outcome	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	Goal	(n=10)	(n=17)	(n=19)	(n=17)		(n=63)
Required "core" courses (DMP 754 or DMP 708 and 854; DMP 806; HMD 720; STAT 701; KIN 818)?	100%	100%	88%	89%	94%	n/a	92%
Required courses for your area of emphasis?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	100%
Elective courses?		80%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	97%
Quality of academic advising that you received?		90%	94%	79%	94%	n/a	89%
Availability of your academic advisor?		80%	94%	100%	94%	n/a	94%
Assistance of your academic advisor?		70%	94%	74%	88%	n/a	83%
Availability of faculty members?		100%	94%	100%	94%	n/a	97%
Approachability of faculty members?		90%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	98%
Way in which degree requirements (policies and procedures) were explained?		80%	94%	84%	94%	n/a	89%
Way in which administrative deadlines and requirements were communicated?		80%	94%	95%	94%	n/a	92%

Scale: 1 to 4 where 1 = Strongly Disagree and 4 = Strongly Agree.

Percent of responses with a score of 3 - 4. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Survey Questions -- Do you agree that the/there ...	Totals by AY					Totals
	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	(n=10)	(n=17)	(n=19)	(n=17)		(n=63)
Instruction in the MPH program keeps pace with recent developments in the public health field?	80%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	97%
Is a high degree of intellectual challenge in the MPH program?	80%	94%	84%	94%	n/a	89%
Academic standards of the faculty in the MPH program are high?	90%	94%	95%	94%	n/a	94%
Courses I needed to take were available when I needed to take them?	90%	94%	84%	94%	n/a	90%

Scale: 1 to 4 where 1 = Poor and 4 = Excellent. Any response of Not Applicable is excluded from the mean calculation.

Percent of responses with a score of 3 - 4. (n) represents number of unique responses.

Attachment 2

Survey Questions -- Please rate the ...	Measurable	Totals by AY					Totals
	Outcome	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	Goal	(n=10)	(n=17)	(n=19)	(n=17)		(n=63)
Availability of research opportunities		83%	89%	73%	50%	n/a	71%
Quality of research experience		86%	100%	93%	100%	n/a	95%
Quality of advising for your research		71%	86%	67%	90%	n/a	78%
Value of your research experience to your overall educational experience		86%	100%	92%	100%	n/a	94%
Availability of field experience (practicum)		88%	77%	72%	82%	n/a	79%
Quality of field experience	100%	86%	100%	94%	100%	n/a	96%
Quality of advising in your field experience		71%	85%	83%	76%	n/a	80%

Survey Questions -- Please rate the ...	Measurable	Totals by AY					Totals
	Outcome	AY'11	AY'12	AY'13	AY'14	AY'15	All Years
	Goal	(n=10)	(n=17)	(n=19)	(n=17)		(n=63)
Value of your field experience to your overall educational experience	100%	86%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	98%
MPH Program's depth (i.e., ability to examine key concepts in detail).		100%	94%	89%	94%	n/a	94%
MPH Program's breadth (i.e., ability to examine a variety of key concepts).		80%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	97%
MPH Program's integration of diverse perspectives (i.e., ability to examine various viewpoints).		90%	100%	95%	94%	n/a	95%
MPH Program's preparation of students for future employment.		90%	100%	79%	76%	n/a	85%

Please list any specific suggestions you have to improve the ways the program can serve its students.		
#	Comments	Comment Date
1	Regardless of what faculty want, develop a standardized way of doing things. It's very frustrating when some students are doing much more work for the same degree.	5/10/2013
2	Better ways to communicate important information (i.e. field experience availability and how early in the program, Public Health agencies need to be contacted). Assist students when they are looking for agencies for their field experiences.	5/10/2013
3	Allow the student to have a trial period with an advisor. Stress the importance of research. Encourage relevant employment and volunteer positions. Encourage earlier internships.	5/10/2013
4	It would be even more helpful if you told students to secure their field experience a year in advance, and therefore they could tailor their future electives to fit the background they will need for their field experience. For example my paper on tick-borne disease would have been much easier to understand, had I taken a parasitology course as an elective, if only I would have known my project in advance.	5/10/2013
5	Regular/posed hours of program office, greater availability of field experience opportunities, matching advisors with student interests, provide courses/training on statistical software	5/10/2013
6	I think the MPH program could improve by including more writing development courses in its core curriculum. Policy writing will be a large part of our jobs in the public health field.	5/12/2013
7	Improve guidance for field experiences - Better disseminate information regarding field experience requirements/expectations/past reports etc. - Increase number of classes relating to global health (a booming field of public health!)	5/12/2013

Attachment 2

8	The statistics class could be more applicable to real life problems and less basic-problem oriented. I took the old statistics class, not biostat, so this problem may have already been addressed.	5/14/2013
9	Keep working toward accreditation and increase in diversity of faculty, staff and students. A class on health disparities.	5/16/2013
10	More experience that is job related...	8/21/2013
11	Technology is changing our world more than ever before. I would like to see more emphasis in research using technology (e.g., iPad/tablets, apps, and other device for health) or understand how technology affects health (positive or negative). I would have liked have had a guess speakers from other universities that are pioneers/leaders in public health specifically (not kinesiology). If K-State MPH Nutrition and Physical Activity jump on the technology train, it would help the program achieve 2025 goals as well as bring brilliant students and ideas to the program. Any school can become a Yale if it invests in the right things.	12/6/2013
12	Have transitional class for students to learn about what types of careers they could get with an MPH	12/17/2013
13	For students in zoonosis, having a course in common human diseases seen in Health Departments could be helpful. Those not planning to work in those areas of the health department could at least be conversant with other areas.	12/19/2013
14	I would suggest the creation of GTA/GRA positions.	5/1/2014
15	Encourage students to take advantage of opportunities for "real-world" experiences. I am a very non-traditional student but even with years of experience as a veterinarian I learned many new ideas by participating in the Frontier program.	5/7/2014
16	More opportunities for MPH students to socialize as well as to be provided with an understanding of the breadth of careers following MPH (i.e. 0-1 CRHR course). The semester 0 CRHR assembly course required of my undergrad program was the most beneficial programmatic course of my entire undergrad.	8/25/2014
17	Course availability needs to be improved.	8/26/2014

Please share any final comments or recommendations about your experience as a student in the MPH program at K-State.		
#	Comments	Comment Date
1	Overall, my experience here has been great. Barta and Dr. Cates are always ready to answer any questions that I have asked.	5/10/2013
2	Great experience. I was very hesitant at the beginning and was even looking for other graduate programs around the country during my first semester. I look at the public health school at the Universities of Minnesota, Colorado, and Michigan. In all, it turned out to be the right decision to stay (granted accreditation goes through in the next two years). I saved significant amounts of money. I know peers from public health programs from all around the country (most accredited) and I do not feel that I received any less of an education than them.	5/10/2013
3	The faculty are all very nice and friendly, and I find they are usually very willing to help students, that is something to be valued in a program. We also should find a way to more closely tie the MPH club to the program and work on gaining more support and club and program activities planned. Another option would be to develop an actual cohort of students coming into the program each year or semester and allow these kids to meet again once or twice throughout the program with events sponsored by the club or the program or joint efforts. It would be nice to know your peers better, which is lost with the current way the program is set up with many initial core courses done online.	5/10/2013
4	Had and great time and it was well worth the investment Thank You	5/11/2013
5	Overall a great experience with the K-State MPH program! Dr. Cates is great. Please keep us updated with CEPH accreditation!	5/12/2013
6	I had a great experience in the MPH program.	5/16/2013
7	Great program.	12/5/2013
8	If you are going to do a thesis, start a year early. Make sure your thesis topic interests your advisor or it won't happen.	12/6/2013

Attachment 2

9	Pleased	12/17/2013
10	Please educate mentors about the requirements and ask those on committees to be available to their students. Returning emails is essential.	12/19/2013
11	I really enjoyed the MPH program and got a lot out of it, but it needs work on future application in terms of the student's employment and education endeavors after finishing the program. It is ultimately the responsibility of the student, but a little guidance is very beneficial for those who require it.	5/1/2014
12	I have enjoyed my experience and am grateful to the students and faculty that I have met during my enrollment in the MPH program.	5/7/2014
13	It was a challenging and very rewarding experience. It is good to see how the program is developing and I look forward to hearing news about the accreditation process soon! I have recommended this program to numerous individuals. I would do it all over again - it was a great experience and I look forward to see how I can build upon it.	5/9/2014
14	It has been unforgettable experience to be a graduate student of Kansas State University and enjoy its outstanding treasure of knowledge in the field of Public Health.	5/30/2014
15	I'm excited to see this program grow!	8/25/2014