
Minutes

“A community of scholars promoting the public’s health”

Attendees:

Food Safety and Biosecurity: Dan Fung, Deanna Retzlaff
Infectious Diseases/Zoonoses: None (represented by Michael Cates)
Public Health Nutrition: Sandy Procter, Ric Rosenkranz, Betsy Barrett
Public Health Physical Activity: David Dzewaltowski, Mary McElroy
Pathways to Public Health: Kimathi Choma
MPH Program Office: Michael Cates, Barta Stevenson

Announcements:

1. Master of Public Health Program Accreditation:
 - a. Kansas Board of Regents Permission: Request, signed by Program Director, Deans of Graduate School and College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Provost, formally requesting Regents’ permission to pursue MPH Program accreditation by Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), is now with KBOR office. We expect it to be an item on their March meeting agenda.
 - b. Initial CEPH Application: MPH Program office has drafted initial application document, to send to CEPH, by their deadline of 6 May (for their next semiannual meeting). Application fee of \$2,000 will accompany letter. Accreditation process takes 21 to 30 months from the point of application approval during their council meeting. Before sending the application, we must have KBOR concurrence and we must have identified at least 3 individuals in each area of emphasis who are working more than 50% of their time in teaching, research or service in graduate-level public health. The committee agreed to provide the work matrixes to the program office by the end of March.
2. Kansas School of Public Health. Drs. Freeman and Cates represented K-State at a meeting with Drs. Cox, Choi and Cook of the University of Kansas Public Health program on 9 February 2009 in Topeka. The main discussion topic was the proposal for a joint School of Public Health. A white paper is being prepared on the topic, with the objective of collaboration and cooperation between all players in the state. Both schools agreed that accreditation efforts would continue for both programs.
3. K-REx update. Ten student reports/theses and one faculty paper are now posted so far. MPH Program office is collecting papers for potential posting.
4. Global Health Exhibition National Library of Medicine is scheduled for display at KSU April 3, to May 13, 2011.

5. Rework of MPH website and brochures is beginning. Committee members agreed to send pictures from their Emphasis Areas for use in these items. Prefer pictures of current students and/or faculty.

Approved:

1. Minutes from December 19, 2008 meeting (sent by e-mail).
2. Dr. Andrew Kaczynski as the newest member of the MPH graduate faculty.
3. Field Experience Credit Change: The committee approved the concept to allow variable credit for field experience from 1 to 6 credits, instead of 3 or 6. Purpose for change is to accommodate students as they find various opportunities for field experience, some of which last the equivalent of 2 weeks (1 credit). The MPH Program office will start the official process to make a formal change in the requirement. Contacts: Grad School and Sharon Hauk in Registrar's Office: 2-6321 or hauck@ksu.edu.

Discussion:

1. Background requirement for students applying to the program to have one year of health related work experience. Current Graduate Handbook has the following requirement for full admission to the program:

“At least one year of health-related experience in a health-care setting is preferred. One year of an approved internship or employment in Extension will count. For applicants who lack this requirement, a directed field experience concurrent with the program will be required.”

The committee agreed that, unless required by CEPH, this will no longer be a requirement for full admission to the program.

2. Discussion on assignments of students to advisor/major professors in emphasis area. The committee agreed that we will continue the process in which the Area of Emphasis Coordinator provides the Program Director with the name of a new advisor/temporary major professor for new applicants.
3. Special Public Health event: April 7, 2009 at the Alumni Center – Purple Pride Room. The committee decided to highlight deserving individuals on that day and use the opportunity to market the program beyond just the current students and faculty. As a part of the National Public Health Week, the event will be named Excellence in Public Health at K-State Day, and we will recognize individuals in three categories, related to the K-State Master of Public Health Program: Faculty, Graduate, and Current Student. Dr. Cates agreed to send out the call for nominations and to secure an appropriate award for this year's winners. Speaker suggestions included Mindi Russell (past graduate working at FDA) and/or Dr. Cates. Program will start at 4 PM with hors d'oeuvres, and welcome/program will start at

approximately 4:30 and end by 5:30. Arrangements have been made to video tape the event and have short interviews with attendees. MPH Program will coordinate invitations, to include Deans of Colleges and department heads involved with MPH, all MPH faculty, current MPH students, MPH graduates, Mary McElroy's class, and Dr. Holcomb. The committee agreed to send other recommended names and contact info to Barta. Invitation will be delivered via e-mail with a follow-up reminder one-week before event.

4. Reports from Emphasis areas.

Food Safety: Dr. Fung passed out brochures for his 29th International Workshop & Symposium on "Rapid Methods & Automation in Microbiology," Scheduled for June 19-26, 2009.

Physical Activity: They plan to host another special speaker and will provide details when available.

5. Meeting dates for rest of semester. Group agreed to tell Barta of conflicts.

March 27, 2009 (last Friday of March) – No room available at the Union so will meet in the Dean's Conference Room at the Vet School (Room 112 Trotter Hall). Meeting time: 10:30 AM – 12 Noon.

April 7, 2009 (first Tuesday of April) – Excellence in Public Health at K-State Day – Purple Pride Room at the Alumni Center, Meeting time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

May 8, 2009 (second Friday of May) – Union Room 209, Meeting time: 10:30 AM – 12 Noon.

6. Adjourned at 12 Noon.