

Minutes
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
April 17, 2020

Members in Attendance: T. Breitbach, J. Curley, A. Donaldson, R. Hindi, I. Kuljanishvili, H. Lach, H. Matsuo, S. Mudigonda, M. Pousson, A. Sebert Kuhlmann, M. Allen, M. Cope, C. Thomas, A. Trees, M. McCormick, J. Garcia-Martinez, A. Schnell, B. Looker, M. McCormick, G. Yosten, and H Ehrenreich, B McCoy ,R. Wood.

Guest in Attendance: N/A

Call to Order: R. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00am via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes from the March 25th, 2020 Meeting: Minutes from the March 25th, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Proposals from CPHSJ

1. ***Global Health – Graduate Certificate in Global Health***

Background:

Due to a variety of factors, the St. Louis region is experiencing a dramatic increase in student and professional interest in the field of global health. Changes in the healthcare system prompted hospitals to place a greater emphasis on population health and access to large scale data that allows analysts to ask and answer questions critical to community health, and Specific initiatives in ST. Louis signaled opportunities to address social determinants of health from a variety of perspectives. There are several organizations in St. Lois that work locally and globally to improve the health of a variety of populations. Because of this shifting landscape, many professionals who were enlisted to provide public health services how do not have formal training in public health. This certificate program caters to two distinct audiences 1) working professionals who would benefit from developing global health competencies and 2) graduate students in other disciplines who see additional training in the global health field. Because the CPHSJ currently offers a wide range of educational products, we have the existing capacity to meet the needs of these audiences with minimal additional investment. All coursework for this certificate is available in person, with the option to take two of the courses online. Because public health intersections with many different disciplines, we expect that students from many different degree programs may be interested in pursuing the certificate option. Because public health also intersects with many clinical fields, this certificate is expected to appeal to students taking a “gap year” before medical school, or practioners who are seeking advanced public health training.

2. Graduate Certificate in Maternal and Child Health

Background:

This certificate caters to two distinct audiences: Working professionals who would benefit from developing maternal and child health (MCH) competencies and graduate students in other disciplines who seek additional training in the MCH field. Because public health also intersects with many clinical fields, this certificate is expected to appeal to the students taking a “gap Year” before medical school, or practitioners who are seeking advanced public health training. Students awarded this certificate will be prepared to pursue or advance in position such as a health educator, non-profit program coordinator, MCH program manager, community health work, or public health researcher. Completion of the certificate in MCH will also be an important career tool and credential for professionals of other fields that intersect with public health, including social workers, nurse home visitors, urban planners, and clinicians such as physicians and nurses. Students who complete the certificate in MCH will have the option of enrolling in our Masters of Public Health (MPH) Program. This is a 15-credit hour certificate using existing courses from the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. The MPH is fully accredited by the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH) and aligns with industry standards. Program staff conducts program reviews annually to ensure compliance with accreditation requirements, university standards, and contemporary trends. Any modifications made to the MPH curricula and programs will be applied to the certificate.

Outcome of CPHSJ Certificates:

There are revisions to be made for both above certificates. These revisions will be completed and these certificates will be sent back to the committee members for review. These certificates will be discussed at the next meeting which is to take place on May 8th, 2020.

Advising and Mentoring Manual- Professor Hisako Matsuo:

Background:

This issue was brought up because students have been identified as not having advisors or mentors. As a result, they do not know the policies in the Advising & Mentoring Manual. It is important to note that although graduate student and advisors have different roles, they often overlap. Dr. Matsuo cited several instances situations that he observed that support the lack of appropriate graduate student support in select areas of the University as they relate to advising and mentoring. GAAC members provided additional context as to how advising and mentoring is currently handled in their academic units.

Rob stated this is very important to these students and it is very important that the institutions have those mentoring and advising programs for these students. They need those faculty advocates and structured mentoring relationships between student and faculty. We need to establish a context and do more nurturing than what we do now. We need to have some

graduate associate dean meetings to see if we can come up with a framework and solicit some people because we would like to see some positive changes to the mentoring programs. More to come.

Policies Time-to-Degree Limitations COVID-19 -Ben Looker:

I want to express appreciation to April and the Graduate Office for their care and sympathy during this time.

Proposal: Due to the ongoing and potential future effects on student progress of the 2020 pandemic, GAAC endorses the adoption of a twelve-month extension of existing time-to-degree limitations for all currently enrolled post-baccalaureate students (including those now on leave of absence), no matter their present year in their degree program.

Ben stated that he knows it does not solve all the issues, but it will provide a safety net claiming a solution baseline as an option for students to choose.

Next Meeting, May 8th 2020.