**Joint MPH/BSPH Program Committee**

**Minutes: 4/5/2017**

**GRH 3011; 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Zona Ascensio, JR Basham, Yu-Hsuan Chen (non-voting), Xiuhua Ding, Gary English, Colin Farrell, Marilyn Gardner, Jooyeon Hwang, Jae Kim, Grace Lartey, Megan Steinkamp

**Ascensio/Basham motion** to approve March minutes as posted. Passed unanimously.

Gardner skimmed over her MPH PC report, which is hyperlinked in the 4/5/17 agenda.

Lartey reported that BSPH curriculum changes made it through UCC last week; the certificates/minors made it through CHHS UCC last Friday.

Gardner provided overview of assessment requirements as they relate to the 2016 CEPH criteria. She also went over the programmatic tools**. Prior to the next meeting, committee members are to look at the CEPH measures for E4-E6 (see “proposed tools” hyperlinked in the 4/5/17 agenda) and determine if those highlighted are the ones we want to use, and if unique meaningful measures should be added.**

In new business, Gardner discussed the need to identify five unique competencies for the MPH program. She identified six as a starting point for discussion, based on group discussions at the advisory committee meeting as well as core competencies for public health practitioners: They were:

* Apply health behavior theories and models to address public health problems.
* Gather and synthesize valid information to inform options for public health practice and research.
* Describe financial analysis methods used in making decisions about policies, programs, and services (e.g. cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, cost-utility analysis, return on investment)
* Describe the roles of history, power, privilege and structural inequality in producing health disparities.
* Integrate social determinants into public health science, practice, and research.
* Identify the direct and indirect population health effects of environmental hazards (biological, chemical and physical) on humans, animals and the ecology

Discussion ensued and it was decided that discuss and create competencies in the MPH Curriculum Committee meeting on April 19th.

**Farrell/Lartey motion** to revise mission, per the advisory committee recommendations, passed unanimously. Our mission now reads:

*The mission of the WKU Public Health Programs is to prepare competent public health practitioners to enhance the health status and quality of life of diverse populations.*

**English/Basham et al. motion** to adopt revised values, per the advisory committee recommendations, passed unanimously. Our values now read:

***S****ervice to students, department, university, and the communities we serve*

***P****artnerships and collaborations within and beyond our academic home*

***I****ntegrity, professionalism, and transparency in all we do*

***R****esearch that is applied, community-based, and engages students*

***I****nclusive, culturally-competent, and equitable*

***T****eaching excellence: competency-based, relevant, and application-focused*

Two divergent vision recommendations came out of the advisory committee meeting:

* Regionally and nationally recognized institution providing practice-ready public health professionals; and,
* Optimal well-being for all populations

**Lartey/Basham motion** to adopt vision statement that merged parts of the two recommendations passed unanimously. Our vision now reads:

*Our vision is to be a regionally and nationally recognized institution contributing to the optimal well-being for all populations*

Gardner noted she’d created and posted a POS template for the revised MPH program that includes the ten core courses.

Ascensio provided PHUGAS update. They are putting forth a resolution to SGA to increase the number of credit hours covered by the international graduate student scholarship to match the minimum credit hours required for the program of study. Lartey suggested they inform an international student organization, and will provide the contact information for PHUGAS to do so.

Lartey reported that the KPHA conference and travel details were discussed in the 4/5 KPHA meetings.

Gardner announced that a Health Comm workshop is being held on: April 25 & 27, 4:30 - 6:30; both days required and that a registration for would go out later this week.

The department will be hosting its first ever graduate graduation ceremony in the HCIC Auditorium on Friday, May 12th, 10 - 11:30 a.m.  A discussion on whether a cap would be put on the number of guests. Lartey mentioned that some students in past had more than 20 family members present for other events. The planning committee will discuss.