Education Committee Minutes
April 18, 2019

Attendance: Gene Declercq, Carol Dolan, Anne Fidler, Sophie Godley, Megan Healey, Nikki Longe, Jessica Leibler, Chris Louis, Taylor Mahoney, Lois McCloskey, Meera Ruparelia, Lisa Sullivan, Leslie Tellalian, Amanda Velez

1. Phase 1 Proposal – Advanced GIS (Kevin Lane)
   a. Currently offer 2 GIS courses (2 credit course and 4 credit course)
      i. Why this course: send our students to CRC or other universities to take advanced GIS
         1. CRC doesn’t go into content areas that are relevant for BUSPH students
         2. Doctoral students requested this advanced training
   b. Class is framed to bridge students into field of advanced GIS topics and training in automation and python coding
      i. Will also link to SAS and R
      ii. Would focus on building models and data flows (how to handle data)
      iii. Other topics: risk assessment mapping, space time modeling, spatial metrics of social determinants of health, spatial statistics, cluster analysis for surveillance epidemiology, spatial smoothing
         1. Content-specific lectures that cross many fields of public health
   c. Very project oriented like the other GIS classes
   d. Prerequisites: undergrad intro to GIS class, Patricia’s 4-credit course, BS805
   e. Committee agrees the class is great
      i. One limitation: only very specific MPH students could get into this
      ii. Otherwise no reservations

2. New classes
   a. There are currently a lot of classes on the books, past numbers are below
      i. 2013: 236
      ii. 2014: 277
      iii. 2015: 284
      iv. 2016: 281
      v. 2017: 281
      vi. 2018: 299
      vii. 2019: 328
   b. Average class size has been decreasing (went from 28 to 24)
   c. Goal: work on filtering out courses so there’s room for new ones
      i. Committee will start thinking about principles that would take a course off the books and what criteria should be used for this
         1. Also think about specific circumstances where it’s appropriate to pull in adjunct faculty
      ii. A lot of course overlap with MPH and new MS -> these should look distinct

   a. If approved, this would be effective Fall 2020/Spring 2021
   b. Concerns
i. Sexual and Reproductive Health Advocacy (would be unwise to remove MC785 since this will be the offering going forward, MC815 will likely be removed)
   1. The data on the courses based on what they present is opposite

ii. Wording on bullet 3 is awkward for outcomes

iii. Temporarily removing LW709 -> concern with removing for short periods of time

iv. LW850: there are already cap (currently at 20) and waitlist issues for this course 
   -> adding this to the certificate will cause more
   1. Cap wasn’t raised as discussed and was attempted to be lowered
   2. This class can likely only be included if the cap raises to 40 or if another
      20-person section is added

v. This is the only context certificate with only 2 required courses (both of which
   are day classes so this wouldn’t be an option for some students)

vi. Add PH728: last time this course was taught was Spring 2016 (enrollment in that
    year and previous 2 years was only 7 students)

4. Executive MPH
   a. Goal: bring the Executive MPH fully online -> there is currently no fully online program
      so BUSPH should jump into that space
   b. Requirements
      i. Integrated Core Courses (PH 717, PH 719, PH 720, PH 715)
      ii. Take 1 class in each bucket, 2 in at least one bucket
         1. Courses in parentheses are ones that will be put online first
         2. Research Methods (BS 730 and SB 818), Community Assessment (SB 821), Management (GH 773), Program Design and Evaluation (GH 745), Policy & Advocacy (PM 760), Executive Field Experience (PH 945)
            a. Concern with PM 827: field-based course that’s geared towards
               people with 5 years or less experience
               i. CAHME accreditation: would have to get this re-approved
            3. Will also have non-credit options for some of these courses
   c. Goal: put out a 1 year program for Fall 2020
   d. Next steps: Leslie will map out revisions

5. Task Force Updates
   a. DrPH
      i. Focus group and department surveys will be coming soon -> main focus has been data collection up until now
   b. MS
      i. Getting close to finalizing recommendations
      ii. MS in Population Health Research with 5 specializations below
          1. Epidemiology
          2. Climate & Health
          3. Translation and Implementation Science
          4. Environmental Health
          5. Global Health Research
          6. Students will also have the option to create their own (don’t need to choose one of the formalized tracks)
iii. Structure
   1. Essentials: 4 credits online
   2. Fall semester: 16 credits on campus
   3. Spring semester: 8 credits (eventually can go online)
iv. Total program duration: roughly a year

c. Course Evaluations
   i. Some think there’s no use for course evaluations at all
   ii. Many people don’t want the evaluation comments posted online
      1. Discussion brought about some of the biases that come out in these evaluations