

## **Education Committee**

**March 13th, 2025**

**10am-11am**

**Attendees:** Megan Healey, Lisa Sullivan, Gina Peloso, Andrew Stokes, Candice Belanoff, Chris Louis, Lora Sabin, Amanda Velez, Nikki Longe, Isabel Brennan

1. Recruitment and Applications/ Yield Numbers
  - a. Applications are down 13%, but the number of accepted students remains the same.
  - b. Personalized, tailored emails are being sent to accepted students, referencing personal details and providing information about people and research in the program.
  - c. Admissions is open to adding more touchpoints for students, either individually or in groups by certificates.
  - d. Additional GH session for HCM/HPL/HRSJ students is planned for later this month.
2. Proposal to Move Special Topics Course to a Regular Offering
  - a. Proposal for "Advanced Methods in Reproductive, Perinatal, and Pediatric Epidemiology," a 14-week, 4-credit course led by a pediatric expert in the Epi department.
  - b. Strong student interest and departmental support, particularly for a T32 training grant application.
  - c. Designed not to overlap with Reproductive Epidemiology, which will be a prerequisite (or MC759).
  - d. Prerequisite waivers will be available as needed.
  - e. MS in Epi students may also be interested.
  - f. Concerns raised about insufficient MPH student enrollment if the grant is not approved.

- g. Likely to remain a PhD-level course with the option for advanced MPH students to enroll.
  - h. Consideration of an every-other-year schedule, modeled as a seminar with guest speakers.
  - i. Further clarification needed on how it fits into the PhD curriculum and prerequisites.
- 3. Proposal to Remove BS821 Categorical Data Analysis
  - a. Historically under-enrolled, with only 5 students in 2023.
  - b. Course does not provide additional content beyond BS852.
  - c. No faculty availability to teach in Fall 2024 or Fall 2025.
  - d. Topics from the course will be covered in other courses.
  - e. Amanda will circulate proper documentation for official approval.
- 4. Course Name Change Proposals
  - a. SB760: Change from "Health of LGBTQ Populations" to "LGBTQ Health" for a more concise title.
    - i. Committee Decision: Approved.
  - b. BS831: Change from "Genomics Data Mining and Statistics" to "Statistical Methods and Applications for Genomics" to remove the outdated term "data mining."
    - i. Committee Decision: Approved.
- 5. Phase 2 Course Proposal
  - a. Mentored Teaching Practicum for Doctoral Students (Document will be sent by email for approval)
  - b. Second phase of course sequence that involves a mentored teaching practicum experience.
  - c. Weekly materials are being mapped out.
  - d. Language will be updated to refer to participants as PhD students instead of teaching fellows.
  - e. Feedback Needed
    - i. Clarify the types and levels of interaction PhD students will have with their host class.

- ii. PhD students will be assigned to a class for a semester, with weekly or biweekly meetings to reinforce learning from the initial phase.
- iii. Concerns raised about ensuring PhD students are not performing TA-like duties, particularly grading, to avoid union issues.
- iv. Classes will have dedicated TAs, and PhD student responsibilities will be carefully defined.
- v. The course will be 2 credits, requiring 3 hours per week in the host class and 1 hour in Candice's class.
- vi. Some flexibility will be maintained to account for individual experiences.
- vii. Legal review will be sought regarding language and expectations based on TA job descriptions.

#### 6. Next Steps

- a. Amanda will circulate a few proposals for quick turnaround.