

Education Committee

Thursday, 9/3

10am-11am

Attendees: Chris Louis, Tim Callaghan, Jessica Leibler, Nikki Longe, Megan Healey, Gina Peloso, Candice Belanoff, Andrew Stokes, Matt Fox, Caitlin Brand

Old Business:

- a. Update on course evaluation data.
 - i. The Course Evaluations section of the SPH website will now redirect to the [University page](#) after course evaluation system transition this summer.
 - ii. Course evaluation reports from the legacy system have been saved and stored by SPH Academic Affairs Office. Faculty may reach out to spheducation@bu.edu to request their course evaluation data from Spring 2023-Spring 2026.
 - iii. Course evaluation reports from Summer 2026 and beyond may be accessed by instructors via [this website](#) or Blackboard. Additional guidance for instructors on navigating the Blue course evaluation system can be found [here](#).
- b. Education Taskforce recommendations comms update.
 - i. TF recommendations will go back to Governing Council on 9/17, and Chris Louis, Jon Levy, and Maria Glymour will then present to Faculty Senate. After which, additional information on report will be shared with larger SPH community.
 - ii. Chris to work with Chairs and others to prioritize recommendations from the TF over the semester.
 - iii. Chris discussed importance of current efforts around strengthening relationships with undergraduate programs and 4+1 tracks and noted plans to reach out to faculty for engagement opportunities.
- c. MPH elective course "clusters."
 - i. Advise students to choose electives with cohesive purpose that they could highlight on CV.
 - ii. Chris is working with Megan to identify cohesive elective course cluster options for students. However, this is a challenge as there are a limited number of options due to impacts of reduced enrollment and subsequent course cancellations.
 - iii. Students may choose to take electives outside the School of Public Health.
- d. AI.
 - i. Reminder to faculty to ensure syllabi have a [clear AI policy statement](#) for Fall semester.
 - ii. [AI policy workshop](#) follow-up (slides and handout attached).
 1. Consisted of two separate panel sessions with faculty across the University
 - a. Experiences and observations regarding the implementation of AI policies in their courses.
 - b. Examples of faculty utilizing AI to assess and update their course content, assessments, and materials.
 - iii. MIT AI report (attached).
 - iv. [Brown AI report](#).
 - v. [AI Teaching and Learning Collaborative](#).
 1. Next Learning Community meeting: 9/24 from 1pm-2pm in Talbot Founder's Room (307C)
 - vi. Committee discussion.
 1. MIT and Brown reports present opportunity for SPH to articulate purpose around what our students should learn and the skills that they must build as professionals.

New Business:

- a. Chair's report talking points.
 - i. AY 2026-2027 course cancellation update
 - ii. [USDHS rule](#)/International students

- a. The ISSO is offering [information sessions](#) and has an [updated website](#) with more information. International students should contact the ISSO directly if they have questions about the new rule.
 - iii. Pause on accepting new course proposals and special topics proposals for Fall 2026.
 - iv. If you have follow-up questions on the items above, please reach out to your Chair and/or Chris Louis.
- b. Degree Modification proposals.
 - i. MPH CNCD Context Certificate (Megan)
 - a. Proposal to remove GH880 from certificate options as it is no longer being taught.
 - b. Committee decision
 - a. Approved
 - ii. MS in Applied Biostatistics (Gina)
 - a. In response to internal program review and alumni feedback, proposal will allow students more choice in their coursework rather than a fixed required curriculum. The proposed changes include new electives, while maintaining the program's cohort structure and practical training components.
 - b. Committee discussion.
 - a. Additional options for small pool of students could have impacts on course cancellations.
 - b. Need for more specialized advising noted. Faculty advisor will have more of an advising role than previously, since students will no longer follow a fixed curriculum.
 - c. Curriculum flexibility will make program more competitive.
 - d. Potential opportunity to combine MS-AB and MS in PHDS in the future due to content overlap.
 - c. Committee decision
 - a. Approved pending updates below:
 - a. MS-AB Bulletin updates
 - a. specify the number of elective credits.
 - b. add BS910 to the required list.
 - c. add BS861 to the elective list.
 - b. Ensure all electives are mapped to competencies with inclusion of BS862.
- c. Open discussion
 - i. MPH 12-Month Accelerated Timeline
 - a. Course scheduling concerns raised, particularly around summer course offerings. If we don't offer summer course options, then we will eliminate 12-month option entirely.
 - b. **ACTION:** Survey students to gather data on student interest in accelerated timelines and their certificate(s) of interest.
 - ii. Beginning Fall 2027, pre-requisites will be enforced in MyBU Student system during registration process.
 - a. **ACTION:** Departments should review and update any incorrect course prerequisites in the system before enforcement in Fall 2027.

Next Meeting:

- a. Thursday, 9/17 - 930am-11am