



EHAC Board Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2019 – 10am PT:

Board members present: Jason Finley, Sharron LaFollette, Chyla Hunter, Don Williams, Tania M. Isaksen

Board Members Absent: Mike Fletcher

EHAC Staff: Leslie Mitchell

1.0 Meeting Called to order at: Chair Busch Isaksen called the meeting to order at 10:15am

2.0 Standing Items

2.1 Approval of Agenda: agenda approved

2.2 Approval of January 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes: minutes approved

3.0 Reports

3.1 Chairperson’s Report (Busch Isaksen):

- No report

3.2 Treasurer’s Report (Mike Fletcher)

- Current financials
 - Mitchell reported that all annual dues have been paid and all income is in for the year with the exception of any AEHAP related income for Mitchell’s contracted hours.

3.3 Undergraduate Programs (Finley):

- UG requirements review update (Finley) - postponed
- University of Findlay – conditions update on UG program accreditation – revised documents have been submitted for consideration.
 - Finley questioned credit hour requirements vs. required hours, but otherwise found that the Council’s condition to require a practical based internship course has been addressed.
 - LaFollette explained that 50 contact hours equal 1 credit hour at UI – but many places do not stipulate this type of thing and many times number of credits doesn’t necessarily reflect number of hours.

- Finley asked if it is possible that a prior Findlay UG student could go through the program (previous to this current internship requirement change) without having taken a practical based internship course. LaFollette suggested that in general, no UG graduate of an EHAC program graduates without an internship as far as she knows – but she needs to check Findlay’s situation more closely. She will follow up with Finley on this issue.
- Point of governance – the Vice Chair of UG programs generally makes a recommendation to the Board regarding accred. conditions and the Board decides whether it needs to go the full Council for consideration and simply make the decision themselves.
- Finley will bring final recommendation to the March Board meeting.
- Texas Southern University Site Visit went well with site visitors making one significant recommendation regarding one course.
- Montana State University - Finley asked if there had been any more action related to MSU’s questions regarding the timing of accreditation and when students can be considered graduates of an accredited organization. Busch Isaksen will convey to MSU that we accredit programs and not students during the site visit.

3.4 Graduate Program Report (Sharron LaFollette):

- California State University Dominguez Hills – program support/funding question
 - Postponed for next meeting. LaFollette will review information that Mitchell emails to her.

3.5 Office Report (Leslie Mitchell)

- All annual dues payments are in.
- Site Visits are off and running:
 - Texas State University has submitted their comments on the draft site visit report. I am awaiting the final site visit report from Sharron and Don.
 - California State San Bernardino has been visited and I am awaiting the draft site visit report.
 - Annual meeting arrangements have been made – AV equipment (Tim Murphy is bringing his AV equipment again), networking dinner on Saturday night. Need to invite CoSTEP, NEHA and AEHAP.

4.0 Old Business:

- NEHA AEC session with CEPH, EHAC AEHAP – how would the Board like to see the meeting structured? Busch Isaksen, Clint Pinion, Anne Marie Zimeri and Chuck Treser have been discussing the possibility of EHAC/AEHAP and CEPH participating in a session on the current and future states of EH accreditation. EHAC’s/AEHAPs concern and main desire to hold a session is to discuss the impact that new CEPH regulations are having on Schools of Public Health housing EH programs and on the challenges EH programs are

facing in order to maintain the scientific rigor and hours required to produce a competent EH graduate. There is great concern that CEPH's requirements are causing EH programs to "water down" their STEM based requirements. This is having an impact across the board on employers ranging from the military to private corporations.

- Dave Dyjack (NEHA) wants to have a session at the NEHA AEC for accrediting organizations including CEPH and EHAC and AEHAP (support for EHAC). The session would be facilitated/moderated by Dyjack and provide an opportunity for CEPH and EHAC to present their views on accreditation now and into the future.
- Busch Isaksen explained that if the Board agrees to participate in this session – then they need to think strategically about the how and what will be presented. LaFollette – if we do it, we need someone familiar with both CEPH and EHAC credentials (there are 5 EHAC/CEPH accredited masters programs – UW, ECU, UGA, ECU, and several BS Public Health with EH concentrations). Williams – how are those 5 programs reconciling the differences between EHAC and CEPH requirements? Busch Isaksen explained that they are in different stages of CEPH accreditation. UGA is finished with their process, and they had to remove some of their science programs to comply (but were able to continue to meet EHAC requirements. UW has completed all templates for compliance check (similar to EHAC's Table 2 but much, much more involved). UW's self-study will be submitted in Fall 2019 – site visit 2020. Busch Isaksen explained that UW's CEPH accreditation will depend on if CEPH will accept their definition of Public Health = EH focused public health. She is waiting to see if there will be push back from CEPH on UW's definition of public health (UW does not teach the domestic related health care that CEPH requires). The rub is that EH is a concentration under the UW School of Public Health. Busch Isaksen feels Anne Marie and others should get together to collect concerns prior to this meeting. More problematic thing is that schools are reorganizing how they teach EH. EH introductory courses are being dropped so students are not getting exposed to EH opportunities except as presented in public health-oriented courses. So, Busch Isaksen suggested that EHAC needs a game plan to effectively present the value of EHAC as an organization and then talk more broadly about how CEPH requirements are affecting EH education and graduates. LaFollette as if Board needs to consult the Council on this? **Busch Isaksen suggested forming a committee to create a plan for this session.** She wants practitioners to participate so that they can give first hand reports on how changes made at EH programs to meet CEPH requirements is impacting the EH graduate whom they are hiring. Finley suggested that practitioner participation would require participants to inform themselves on the CEPH and EHAC regs. Williams would like there to be an EHOPAC representative on the committee – he vitally interested in graduates remaining strong candidates for EH corps position. Potential Committee members and panel participants:
 - o Tania Busch Isaksen
 - o Sharron LaFollette
 - o EHOPAC – Elena Vaouli
 - o Tim Murphy – great at articulating EHAC's value

- Don Williams
 - Ann Marie Zimeri
 - Clint Pinion
 - Tom Deem - Private industry (Boeing)
 - Jason Finely – ARMY National Guard
 - Mark Houser – State government
 - EHAC accreditation value in general
 - EH education in general
- Finely suggested the issue comes down to differences in field/applied health. CEPH will accredit individual programs within Departments of Public Health. Finley will look at comparing programs (EHAC/CEPH).
 - Finley asked if there is someone that has served on the CEPH Council and EHAC Council as well? No one knows of anyone. What about Carolyn Harvey? LaFollette – their structure consists of paid individuals as well as volunteers.
 - Busch Isaksen explained that she thinks Dyjack wants to have an open conversation that allows expression of concerns around direction that new CEPH regulations are driving EH education.
- Potential NEHA certification/credential for EHAC graduates (Fletcher) – updates? Postponed.
 - ARMY Civil Support Teams – EHAC relationship (Finley) – updates?
 - Finley explained that much of the EH opportunities available in the ARMY are not as well-known and he would like to inform the Council about these opportunities – particularly that of Environmental Health Officer. Finley would like 10-20 minutes to give an overview of what people on the ground look like in an applied field manner and how education in EH can prepare graduates for those opportunities. Board is in full support of bringing someone to annual meeting to inform Council and how to discuss the potential for accrediting entities like the Uniformed Armed Services University. Williams commented that Welford Roberts was a faculty member at the Uniformed Armed Services University.

5.0 New Business (Chair Busch Isaksen):

- Council Membership Numbers/Elections – there was a 2016 Constitutional change in membership numbers from 21 to 20 with a 50/50 split between academics and practitioners that has not yet been observed. How would Board like to move forward?
 - Williams asked if there has always an odd number of Council members? LaFollette explained that a changed to 20 member and a 50/50 split was made to the Constitution in 2016 – but not observed.
 - Motion from the Board: LaFollette motions to re-establish 11/10 split in Council – one more academic than practitioner.
 - Second from Don.
 - LaFollette withdrew motion for further consideration of wording regarding retaining up to a 21 member Council and also maintaining 1 more academic than practitioner – regardless of the total number of members.

- Busch Isaksen and Mitchell will reword wording for this so that academics always outnumber the practitioners regardless of total number of Council members.
- Used to be a maximum of 21 with 11 being academics and 10 being practitioners.
- Zoom - virtual meeting space/webinar application - \$139.95 a year (nonprofit discount)
 - postponed
- Topics for consideration for discussion at Annual Meeting: - postponed
 - Council/Board Membership numbers (from today's discussion/decision).
 - Email voting procedure – desire to enhance opportunity for consideration and discussion of topics among the Council.
 - One way to avoid having to vote by email or in addition to is to have periodic virtual meetings (via Zoom) to consider topics needing a Council vote.
 - Move to virtual board meetings and partial virtual annual meetings (particularly for programs with no major issues concerning their accreditation. The opportunity to attend by phone or virtually for these programs was provided for at a previous annual meeting – a decision on the need for a PD to attend the meeting or not would be made by late April), but has not been observed to any great extent.

6.0 Schedule Next Meeting – Doodle Poll

7.0 Meeting adjourned by Bush Isaksen at 11:10am