

## EHAC Board Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2019 – 12pm

**Board Members Present:** Tania Busch Isaksen, Jason Finley, Don Williams, Chyla Hunter, Mike Fletcher. Sharron LaFollette joined at 12:42pm

**Board Members Absent:**

**EHAC Staff:** Leslie Mitchell

**1.0 Meeting Called to order at:** 12:02 by Busch Isaksen

### 2.0 Standing Items

**2.1 Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved as is.

**2.2 Approval of June 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes.**

Fletcher moved to approve the June 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

### 3.0 Reports

**3.1 Chairperson's Report** – postponed to later in meeting.

**3.2 Treasurer's Report** – Fletcher reported on current balance and revenue and loss status. No questions from Board members. Busch Isaksen pointed out that final net revenue numbers will end up being better than projected in budgeting.

**Action:** Busch Isaksen asked Mitchell to prepare a document showing final 2018-2019 actuals, 2018-2019 budget, approved 2019-2020 budget and projected 2019-2020 expenses.

### 3.3 Undergraduate Program Report

- **California State University – San Bernardino:**
  - **Motion:** Finley motioned to change current conditional accreditation to full accreditation for CSU SB for 6 years due to CSU SB having met conditions placed by the Council at the 2019 Annual Meeting.
  - **Second:** Motion seconded by Chyla Hunter.
  - **Discussion:** Busch Isaksen explained that conditions placed on CSU SB consisted of the following:
    - Revise and resubmit Table 2 ([2016 Undergraduate Requirements](#) Article VIII, Sec. B Table 2, pgs. 9-12) showing explicitly how CSU SB's EHS program meets EHAC curriculum requirements. Particular attention should be paid to the impact of the EHS degree program's transition from a quarter to semester system on required foundation courses (Epidemiology, Statistical Methods, Toxicology) ([2016 Undergraduate Requirements](#) Article VIII, Sec. B Table 2, Sec. B pgs. 10-11) and to establish clarity related to whether and how EHAC credit hour requirements are being met;
    - Submit all syllabi discussed in the revised Table 2; and
    - Submit a link to the revised CSU SB curriculum catalog.
    - These conditions involved CSU SB's transfer from a quarter to semester system in 2020 and also reflected a complication with credit hours in their current quarter system, related to the terminology change in EHAC UG specifications from "guidelines" to "requirements". LaFollette and Finley have reviewed the changes and feel like CSU SB has done there due diligence. They have addressed the Table 2 condition and also the

.5 credit discrepancy in their current quarter structure. Busch Isaksen explained that the decision that Board needs to process is whether or not to except CSU SB's argument regarding their address of the credit hour conflict in the current quarter system. Fletcher submitted that they are meeting the spirit of the conditions and of EHAC Requirements.

- **Vote:** Unanimously approved
  
- **Univ. of Illinois, Springfield –**
  - **Motion:** Finley recommend removing conditions from Univ. of Illinois and approving accreditation for the remainder of their six years of full accreditation.
  - **Second:** Hunter
  - **Vote:** Unanimously approved

### 3.4 Graduate Program Report

- East Carolina University – new Program Director: Dr. Stephani Richards
  - **Motion:** Finley recommends approval of Dr. Stephanie Richards as Program Director at ECU's Graduate EH Program.
  - **Second:** Fletcher
  - **Vote:** Unanimously approved
  
- MVSU – announced a desire to change graduate EH program to an accelerated 5 year degree to attract Biology Majors. Busch Isaksen would like to have a more in-depth discussion of these type of accelerated degrees – the idea of 3 +2 degree and how EHAC can move to accommodate these programs? Busch Isaksen suggested tabling the subject for further discussion.
  - Fletcher asked if they want to accredit both UG and Grad. programs? LaFollette explained that right now, they are asking about the accredited Graduate program. Would EHAC need an entirely new accreditation document for this type of degree? Busch Isaksen suggested coming up with a way to navigate for students who chose just to get only a BS degree even though they enrolled in accelerated program. Finley – if we can pull this type of thing off – it would lead to more programs buying into accreditation and Fletcher agreed suggesting it may need to be its own category. (Because – in this case – most of the EH core courses are graduate level courses.) LaFollette explained that the Undergraduate degree involved in this question is a Biology Degree, not the UG Environmental Health degree program. As it stands, MVSU would maintain the EH UG degree program. Finley feels it is an opportunity for growth.
  - LaFollette reiterated that MVSU is planning an accelerated program for BS in Biology to MS in Env. Health. LaFollette explained that it doesn't change their Graduate Program. So right now – EHAC is only looking at the Master's component and the planned effort meets current EHAC Graduate Guidelines.
  - LaFollette added that the whole point of this accelerated program is to increase enrollment in the EH Graduate degree and they are trying to do this via the UG Biology degree students.
  - LaFollette submitted that no action is required of the Board at this point as it matters not how students get into Master's program. At this point, there would be no change in the current Graduate program so there would be no change in their accreditation status. LaFollette explained that she encouraged Dr. Kethireddy to concentrate on creating one

- good concentration at the Master's level, rather than trying to create different Certificates that would likely dilute the pool of potential students.
- Nothing needs to be done regarding Master's EH program at this point (related to the Accelerated Graduate degree plan). If there is any plan for including the UG EH degree in an Accelerated effort – that will take greater consideration of the changes by the Board.
  - **Action: LaFollette will communicate that there is no accreditation related issue to the planned Accelerated Graduate Degree Program, but if they decide to at the UG EH degree to an accelerated program, that will be cause for more review.**

**FVSU** – final removal of conditions is still pending final catalog submission from Dr. Samples.

### **3.5 Office Report** – updates from ED:

- Annual Update Letter to be emailed on October 1, 2019, along with the 2018-2019 Annual Update Survey Report and the 2019 EHAC Annual Meeting minutes.
- Outcome Assessment Reports have been emailed to 2019 reaccrediting programs.
- 2019-2020 EHAC annual dues invoices and reaccreditation fees will be emailed on October 1, 2019.
- Projected final revenue and loss numbers show EHAC coming out ahead of budget for 2019-2019.

## **4.0 Old Business**

### **4.1 New Business** –

- Public Health webinar facilitated by Dave Dyjack – Busch Isaksen explained recent email exchange among Dave Dyjack and a number of EHAC Board and Council members that also coincided with the publication of the October JEH with an inflammatory op-ed by Dr. Dyjack regarding the state of Public Health and Environmental Health accreditation.
  - Dave Dyjack op-editorial regarding EH and PH accreditation – Dyjack presented a full on defense of CEPH and EH being represented adequately in CEPH requirements. Dyjack challenged EHAC and AEHAP to do something about any inadequacies related to EH in the CEPH requirements. Busch Isaksen requested guidance from the Board on how to talk with Dyjack on a phone call. Busch Isaksen reiterated that (from her own personal experience in meeting the CEPH requirements) CEPH does not accredit EH content, competency, knowledge level and skills sets. CEPH accredits competencies in PH but not EH content or PH content, for that matter. How best can EHAC respond? Finley pointed out that Dyjack does not have a REHS, etc. and has a history with Public Health, so it makes sense that he leans toward PH. Finley added that he doesn't understand why Dyjack does not grasp the power he holds or seem to understand that he is THE representative for Environmental Health and his very vocal support of CEPH and PH accreditation and noticeably less vocal support of EH and EHAC accreditation has a very strong impact. It seems that he either realizes that there is a conflict of interest and if he does, he doesn't seem to care, or he does not see the conflict – which is difficult to believe. Bush Isaksen suggested taking an opportunity to speak back to Dyjack's director's message in the JEH with one of AEHAP's article submission opportunities in a way that does not jeopardize EHAC's relationship with NEHA. Bush Isaksen also commented that she is comfortable with stronger response.
  - **Action: Mitchell will send article out to Board by Dyjack so that Board can discuss at October Board meeting.**

**6.0 Schedule Next Board Meeting – October 29, 2019 at 9:30am PST**

**7.0 Meeting Adjourned at 1:15pm**