



National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

*Enhancing the education and training of students
in environmental health science and protection*

EHAC Board Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2020 – 12pm Pac. Time

Board Members Present: Jason Finley, Tania Busch Isaksen, Dave Gilkey, Laura Suppes, Don Williams,

Board Members Absent: Tim Murphy

EHAC Staff: Leslie Mitchell

1.0 Meeting Called to order at: 12:11pm PST

2.0 Standing Items

- Finley explained that he would like to maintain and progress in a methodical way.
- Appreciated the spirited conversation around practical experience. Finley's main focus is to stick to what is written in policy and consider policy changes via considered policy revision routes. There is opportunity for discussion and he appreciates the passion exemplified by the recent discussion.

2.1 Approval of Agenda: Gilkey moved to approve agenda. Agenda approved unanimously.

2.2 Approval of June 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Busch Isaksen moved to approved June 18, 2020 minutes and Gilkey seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

3.0 Reports

3.1 Treasurer's Report: Mitchell

- Mitchell summarized the balance and income and loss sheets.
- Gilkey suggested that the financial be approved as are the minutes and agenda.
- Finley – what are the advantages or disadvantages of approve or disapprove the documents. Gilkey thinks it makes for greater accountability. Busch Isaksen suggested that this is a review versus a decision, but noted that rules can be established. Finley is o.k. with not voting on the financial records

Action: Mitchell will research the need for official approval of financial documents.

3.2 Chairperson's Report:

- Program Updates, Action Items and Annual Meeting Decisions and Action Review
 - Finley reviewed ongoing activities
 - Finley would like to add to next year's reaccreditation letters a bit about the Self-study and Site Visit Process. He feels that the letters are an opportunity to remind PDS and admin of the comprehensive nature of the accreditation process.

- Gilkey asked about what kind of language – Finley answered that he wants to review the accreditation process and suggested that her would present some language at the next Board meeting – if that makes since to Board.
 - Gilkey – doesn't know if that makes sense as previous to the Site Visit all of this information is provided. Gilkey asked Tania Busch Isaksen how it works at UW. She eventually receive notification
 - Tania Busch Isaksen – what kind of package could be created to send along with certificates and letters to show value of EHAC accreditation.

- Meeting with Dyjack and September EHAC 101 Brief for NEHA Brown Bag (will use updated PPT from 2019 NEHA AEC presentation)
 - Finley wants to strengthen the relationship between EHAC and NEHA. Noted that AEHAP's GEHC is a sore point.
 - Finley wanted to let Dyjack know that that he would like to work more closely with NEHA – discussed GEHS and REHS issues.
 - Week later – Dyjack asked invited EHAC to give a 15 minute brief for EHAC staff, which Finley will do.
 - Finley – noted that Dyjack volunteers for CEPH and has for a long time but Finley would like to get him involved in EHAC matters.
 - Busch Isaksen asked what Dyjack's take on CEPH, as he had mentioned they were headed downhill.
 - Finley would like to invite Dyjack to sit in on a Site Visit so that he can be a fair advocate of both.
 - Gilkey asked what kind of discussion occurred after the CEPH/EHAC presentation at the AEC in TN in 2019 – what has transpired since? Busch Isaksen met with Molly after the session and felt like it was a good meeting and suggested a couple of ways to work together – there was a brief email follow up and then nothing else. Odd experience and then later conversations with Dyjack were confusing. Finley suggested that key in many ways is Dyjack and feels that if Dyjack is involved with CEPH, he should be involved with EHAC. Gilkey is concerned about being swallowed up by CEPH even though MPH graduates are not able to move in to USPHS positions and are not prepared for science based research work. Gilkey is concerned about what kind of positive relationship can exist between CEPH and EHAC. Busch Isaksen submitted t hat the time involved for meeting CEPH criteria is probably \$100,000 as well as time just to meet criteria. EHAC has much clearer expectations of what is expected, cost is a fraction of CEPH, return on investment is huge compared to what CEPH is offering EH programs. Murphy added there are unfortunate results for EH graduates of CEPH schools looking for EH jobs. Murphy suggested that is important to speak with administration of CEPH/EHAC accred EH programs and ask them how their job and promotions work out in the EH arena for CEPH vs. EHAC graduates. Finely – lots of advantages – and how can we convince Dyjack of the value and embrace him and NEHA.
 - Finley want to pursue accrediting international programs – add value

- EHAC/AEHAP strategic planning meeting:
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- For future accred and reaccred. letters – add language about the comprehensive nature of the process

3.3 Undergraduate Program Report – Vice Chair Gilkey

- **Undergraduate Program Report (Gilkey)**
- New PD at Boise State – Dr. Kimberly Rauscher – recommendation
 - Busch Isaksen – dwindling number of PhDs who want to get into teaching that have practical experience. Need to be very cognizant of this if Council wants to be more restrict on PD requirements. Finley emphasized sticking to guidelines. Murphy – EHAC wants experience – other requirements are up to the University. Again, a dwindling number of PhDs with practical experience. Murphy emphasizes EHAC desire for experience over terminal degree. Busch Isaksen – issue is the people that want to make jump to becoming a “pracademic”. Can AEHAP help with this effort? Murphy – Finlay runs a seminar series in the Fall – when there are people that engage the students really well – encourage these people to teach at Findlay.
 - Gilkey – in MT – recruiting Bachelor and Masters level people at local health depts.
 - Busch Isaksen suggested that some wording regarding suggestions for gaining pract
 - Finely – has there been a massive change in practitioner experience in academics and is there a desire to make any policy changes.
 - Busch Isaksen – suggested tabling this subject for next month.
 - Gilkey motioned to approve Dr. Rauscher as PD at AK state
 - Busch Isaksen seconded:
 - Unanimously approved
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- Mentoring efforts update:
 - Arkansas State – Gilkey has spoken with representative at AR State and she was hired to create a program.
 - Salish Kootenai – met on April 6, 2020 with Gilkey. They have an NIH grant to grow their program. University is 50% Native American and EH Dept. is 75% Native American. Dr. Christina Rush. Busch Isaksen was excited. Gilkey said they hope that they have someone graduating from the Department either spring 2021 or fall 2021. Busch Isaksen – preliminary/conditional approval – program could submit self-study in December if they are going to have spring graduates – if they are that close and have the money, suggested seeing if they are interested in submitting for December. Gillkey – probably not do to heavy teaching load and research requirements for faculty. Would not be able to do a self-study by December. Busch Isaksen suggested thinking about more creative ways to get small universities involved – collaborative project with SK/teaching MOU, etc. as she would like to see the first tribal college. Gilkey said that SK’s goal is to gain EHAC accreditation soon.
 - Finely suggested that if Gilkey has any questions to approach the Board.
- On track with annual update survey committee work

3.4 Graduate Program Report – Vice Chair Busch Isaksen

- Guidelines Committee Update – no report

3.5 Office Report:

4.0 Old Business:

- Racial Equity Joint Letter. with NEHA/AAS/AEHAP (Busch Isaksen)
- CEPH Letter related to World Events (Busch Isaksen)

5.0 New Business:

- EHAC/AEHAP Strategic Planning Mtg..

6.0 Schedule Next Board Mtg. -

7.0 Adjournment Mtg. adjourned at 1:12pm