



National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

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

EHAC Board Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2021 – 12:15pm Pacific time

Board Members Present: Chris Sparks, Chad Brown, Rania Sabty, Tim Murphy, Dave Gilkey, Tania Busch Isaksen

Board Members Absent:

Others attending:

EHAC Staff: Leslie Mitchell

1.0 Meeting Called to order at: Murphy called the meeting to order at 12:15pm PST

2.0 Standing Items

2.1 Approval of Agenda: November 9, 2021, agenda approved.

2.2 Approval of October 7, 2021, Meeting Minutes: Busch Isaksen moved to approve the October 7, 2021 minutes. There was a second from Sparks and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3.0 Reports

3.1 AEHAP Update: Dr. Ben Ryan – new President - absent

3.2 Treasurer's Report: Sabty provided a brief overview of the budget documents

- Current Balance sheet - no questions
- Current Income and Expenses - no questions
- Current 5 year retained income - no questions
- **Action: Year-end review will be presented in December.**

3.3 Chairperson's/ED Report: Murphy/Mitchell

- **APHA - EHEC report and IDEA EH Award recipient (Mitchell)**
Mitchell reported on the recipient of the Inclusion and Diversity for Equitable Advancement in Environmental Health Award – Black Millennials 4 Flint. Mitchell Chairs the Workforce and Education Subcommittee for the Environmental Health and Equity Collaborative (EHEC) and this award was a highlight of the Committee's efforts. It is hoped that this is the beginning of future recognition of diversity effort within leadership and in an organization's work on the ground.
- **NEPHIP update (Mitchell)** – Mitchell reported that a meeting with Jesse Bliss, Carla Brown and herself. The availability of funding to support recruitment of new programs to EHAC accreditation was discussed. Leslie is trying to schedule a meeting with Bliss and Murphy to discuss options.
 - Bliss note that CDC will be basing its judgment on whether to open the program to other students outside of EHAC, on the numbers of applicants this year. Mitchell noted two concerns about this – 1) we're getting a very late start on the application process this year and 2) the internships will likely be of a virtual nature due to CDC travel restrictions that NEHA has to observe because the funding is from CDC.

- Busch Isaksen pointed out that actually, the limiting factor (re: applicants) may be a lack of public health departments with the bandwidth to host an intern – even virtually.
- Murphy state that the bottom line is that there needs to be a large number of applicants for whatever positions are available.
- Brown commented that his health departments have sanitarian positions that have been open and unfilled for months.
- Accountant - Carla Brown leaving EHAC and AEHAP.
 - **Actions:**
 - **Mitchell will work with Brown to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure manual for QuickBooks and other bookkeeping and tax related activities.**
 - **Mitchell will provide this to Murphy for Alan Dellapenna's wife (former CPA) to have a look at for advice.**
 - **Mitchell will interview a few candidates for the position – likely at the local level. Mitchell will ask Brown for bookkeeper recommendations.**

3.4 Undergraduate Program Report: Vice Chair Dave Gilkey

- Brigham Young Univ. update – BYU/Jim Johnston was not able to get approval of the EHAC oriented proposed degree program. Administration is cutting back rather than making additions. Johnston hopes to get the program approved in the next couple of years.
- Western Kentucky University - Jacqueline Basham sent Table 2 to Gilkey to review and Gilkey reported that it looks good.
- Salish Kootenai College – there is still interest in gaining accreditation. Gilkey has communicated with the Dept. head and also with the lead grant writer Clay Comstock, who restated interest in accreditation. Apparently gaining EHAC accreditation is a deliverable on a current grant on which they are working.

3.5 Graduate Program Report: Vice Chair Busch Isaksen (absent)

- **Western Kentucky University – new PD, Dr. Edrisa Sanyang.**
 - Motion: Busch Isaksen recommended approval of Dr. Sanyang as the new Program Director for WKU's Graduate EOHS Degree Program.
 - Discussion
 - Busch Isaksen enquired about who took over the UG Program Director positions. Gilkey suggested that Jacqueline Basham is the Program Director (writing the Self-study). Busch Isaksen was impressed with Sanyang's level of practical EH experience and suggested that he might be better placed with the UG program. Gilkey reported that Basham is working toward her Doctorate but did not know her level of EH practical experience.
 - Vote: Unanimous approval
- **Cal State Dominguez Hills – update**
 - CA State DH is no longer developing an online Master of Health Science degree program. Administration has opted to form a Master of Public Health program. Dr. Roback suggested that there will be an MPH with a Health Science concentration.

3.6 Committee Reports

- **BGC Exploratory Committee recommendation re: Letter of Agreement – Mitchell**
 - Mitchell presented the Committee's written recommendation for Board approval of the BGC Letter of Agreement and to move forward with a partnership with BGC that would benefit students.
 - Brown enquired about QEP and GES credentials and if they are valuable to EHAC students. Murphy explained that they are geared more toward private industry practice rather than public health practice.

- Brown submitted that more credentialing opportunities for students, if credential is valued in the field, the better.
- Sabty raised the following questions:
 - Sabty would like to confirm that the exams for the QEP and GES will serve students now and into the future and would like to avoid the trajectory that the REHS/RS has taken from knowledge focused to practice focused. I
 - Sabty suggested to assure relevance to students EHAC representatives should be part of the exam revision process and involved in development of any associated study materials.
- **The Board agreed and suggested the following addition to the Letter of Agreement:**
 - **BGC will include EHAC Reviewers on revision of QEP or GES exam and any exam related materials.**
- **Additionally, the Board will wait to make a final decision about moving forward with a partnership with BGC until:**
 1. **BGC has agreed to the addition of the above statement requiring EHAC representatives to be involved in exam and study materials revisions.**
 2. **BGC confirms involvement of volunteers Gilkey and Samples on their latest exam Revision efforts of late summer 2021/early fall 2021.**
- **Nominations Committee (Sparks) - letter to Council**
 - Sparks presented a Nominations recruitment letter to the Board for approval.
 - Busch Isaksen suggested that an additional charge for the Committee to consider is to maintain a balance of veteran and new Council members, in order to preserve historical knowledge.
 - **Board approved the letter for dispersal in 2022.**
- **Marketing and Values Committee – Murphy**
 - Murphy reported on a student project focused on identifying degree programs that have degree programs that match or closely match EHAC criteria. Identified programs will be targeted for recruitment to EHAC accreditation. Due date for project is December 1, 2021.
 - Busch Isaksen reported that she is doing something similar with her students They will focus on job pipelines (like GlassDoor and Manpower) to identify the job requirements/competencies for EH related jobs in order to address gaps in EH curriculum and education needs.
 - Gilkey reported that he is working with the Montana Environmental Health Association on EH workforce development, and with the ILO related to Environmental Occupational Health workforce issues, as well.

4.0 Old Business:

5.0 New Business:

- **IUPUI update (Mitchell): tabled**
 - Restructure of EH program is leading to impending accreditation loss. What does the future of EH education look like? How should EHAC respond? What data do we need?
- Potential workforce study: building upon UNCOVER EH effort = EH Workforce Skills Survey (this type of effort is part of the EH Workforce Act, as well(Representative Brenda Lawrence, MI):
- Need for Online specific accreditation criteria or evaluation criteria – laboratory classes especially?:
Indiana University Bloomington: BSPH curriculum aligns closely with EHAC criteria – pursue accreditation interest? How best to do this?

6.0 Next Board Meeting: December 14 at 11 am Pacific

7.0 Adjournment Mtg. adjourned at 1:16pm Pacific.