



## National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

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

### **EHAC Board Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2022 - 1:00pm Pacific time**

**Board Members Present:** Tim Murphy, Rania Sabty, Jason Lewis, Cindy Weckwerth, Kai Elgethun, Dave Gilkey

**Board Members Absent:**

**Others attending:** Kim Lichtfeld

**EHAC Staff:** Leslie Mitchell

**1.0 Meeting Called to order at:** Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm PST

#### **2.0 Standing Items**

**2.1 Approval of Agenda:** Lewis moved to approve December 15, 2022, agenda. Second from Gilkey and agenda was approved unanimously, with additions of consideration of extension request from ETSU and an interim PD review at ETSU (Phil Scheuermen).

**2.2 Approval of November 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes:** Sabty moved to approve the November 17, 2022, minutes. There was a second from Weckwerth and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **3.0 Reports**

**3.1 AEHAP Update:** Dr. Kim Lichtveld – President

- No meeting in December 2022
- Submitted JEH article
- Posted SRC notice and website has been updated. Request for Board Members to pass on this announcement to their contacts/students
- Fundraising effort ongoing to support AEHAP organization and SRC effort

**3.2 Treasurer's Report:** Sabty and Mitchell provided a brief overview of the budget documents.

- Current Balance sheet - checking: \$10,264.12 as of December 13, 2022  
- savings: \$108,452.84 as of December 13, 2022
- Current Income and Expenses - Net Income: \$64,595.23 as of December 13, 2022

**3.3 Chairperson's/ED Report: Murphy/Mitchell**

- **Program Recruitment Effort Update**
  - CDC contact Ayana Perkins is developing potential contacts at HBCUs including Howard, Tuskegee, Tennessee State University, Morehouse, and others
- **Program Recruitment Proposal update** - Murphy is working on this proposal
- **Board of Global Health Credentialing** - Mitchell reported on a recent change in ED. Mitchell is working with new interim ED to ensure collaboration between BGC and EHAC is maintained and moves forward.

- Murphy submitted that a fellow Professor, Seth Ebersviller at U. Findlay, is working with BGC to develop a new environmental health related credential. Murphy was interested in how this new credential would differ from the NEHA REHS/RS. Ebersviller felt it would be different but was going to follow up with some questions to BGC, but Murphy will stay in contact with him into the future.

### 3.4 Undergraduate Program Report: Vice Chair Dave Gilkey

- **East Tennessee University Request for Extension to 2025**
  - Gilkey recommended granting the request due to challenges related to hiring a Department Chair and then another faculty member, as well as being in the process of CEPH reaccreditation in 2023.
    - Murphy was concerned that currently, their Self-study is not due until December 2023, and he would like to understand more about their process and how the CEPH reaccreditation is impacting ETSU's EHAC accreditation, in order to make a more informed decision about the extension request.
    - **Action: Gilkey will contact Dr. Scheuerman to discuss the challenges cited in the extension request letter to determine if theirs is a valid request.** Gilkey suggested that the request is due most likely to time constraints and number of faculty members available to work on the accreditations.
- **ETSU: new PD - Dr. Phil Scheuerman**
  - Gilkey recommended approval of Dr. Scheuerman as the interim PD at ETSU - as he has been a long-time EH consultant, professor, and served as EHAC PD in the past.
  - **Motion: Gilkey move to approve Dr. Scheuerman as the interim PD at ETSU**
  - **Second: Weckwerth**
  - **Vote: Unanimous approval (Lewis abstained as an ETSU alumnus)**
- **BYU - summary of site visit.**
  - All day meeting with many BYU representatives - busy schedule for the day.
  - The team explained added value and benefits of EHAC accreditation. **Reps. were very interested in the benefits of accreditation.**
  - History - They had 100 students ten years ago in the EH program. The program was restructured and since that time, enrollment has dropped and is currently at 25 students.
  - Program will have to grow by at least 30% in order for BYU to apply for EHAC accreditation (basic business model). Probably at least 2 years out from starting the process.
    - The Team impressed upon the representatives that EHAC EHS accreditation is imperative for supporting the public health workforce (vs. private corporations).
    - Really important thing - **the Team suggested eliminating the Health Science track because it is taking students away from the Environmental Health track and resulting in generalist degrees that are not very useful in the EH professional world. Elgethun conveyed that message and he felt it was understood by faculty, and the Chair was supportive of closing the generalist ES program, as well.**
    - **The Team also emphasized that EHAC is a good preparatory program for many further degrees - veterinary degree, MD, etc.**
    - **Gilkey stressed how important it was for Elgethun to be part of the Site Visit Team, especially in his uniform. It was extremely effective for a uniformed officer to be championing the importance of EHAC accreditation to the faculty and administration, with real world examples (of EHAC vs non-EHAC graduates). Murphy agreed.**
    - **Elgethun also noted that the Team had direct access to their academic advisor. Being able to talk directly to this person was extremely beneficial.**

- **UG Revisions update** - Gilkey reported that the committee will be meeting to discuss final revisions and interpretations in January 2023.

### 3.5 Graduate Program Report: Vice Chair Elgethun

- **Graduate Guidelines Revision update:**
  - Elgethun will be meeting several times with Tania Busch Isacksen in January 2023 to draft revisions.

### 3.6 Committee Reports

- **Bylaws and Policy Comm.** - meeting in January to finalize EHAC Policy Revisions and send final document to Board for final approval. Committee will then move to new policy topics raised at November Board meeting.
- **Nominations Comm.** - finalizing revisions to nominations letter that is to be delivered in January. Please think about nominating someone to the Council election.

### 4.0 Old Business:

### 5.0 New Business:

- **Tribal College recruitment** - discussion of Mari Egger's ideas related to tribal programs and EHAC accreditation.
  - Education agreements between two-year Tribal Colleges and a four-year partner with an established EHAC accredited degree program.
  - Develop a course on Disaster Risk Assessment and management course/climate change impact on health related to climate change resilience/adaptation/disaster planning - due to increase importance of topic in the REHS/RS exam.
  - Recruitment of a Native practitioner from the IHS system for EHAC Council – this will be helpful as we work more with tribal colleges.
  - Sabty explained that she manages a program covering EPA Regions 9 and 10 and is working with tribes to bring emergency response training to reservations (NIHS) and building local capacity for disaster preparedness. She is greatly supportive beginning to work in this area and would like to be involved in any efforts.
  - Murphy supported Egger's suggestion for EHAC to promote and support the establishment of MOUs between 2-year Tribal Colleges and 4-year EHAC accreditation degree programs.
    - Gilkey submitted that Eggers has deep connections (10 years) with reservation residents in Montana and other states, and this connection is extremely important for introducing EHAC to this population.
    - Gilkey - one of the challenges of these types of agreements is that there it is difficult to make sure that 2 years students complete their prerequisites, so they graduate in 2 additional years from the 4-year institution.
    - Sabty suggested that EHAC will need to be flexible to adapt requirements to unique situations at smaller schools like TCUs.
    - **Developing MOUs with junior colleges would be great but need to use a tribal ally. More input is needed from Eggers to determine the best way to communication with TCUs. Murphy suggested that, in a perfect world, EHAC would make a presentation to a group meeting of two-year tribal colleges and uplift the MOU opportunity.**

- **Actions:**

- Sabty will talk with Eggers about the Board's discussion regarding her ideas around TCUs and determine what would be the best next step for sharing EHAC's opportunities to TCUs.
- Mitchell will work with Eggers and Sabty to see if there is a consolidated place where we could speak to many tribal 2-year colleges at the same time. EHAC needs an individual close to, or in the TCU community, that will drive the effort to share EHAC's opportunities = building partnership with people like Eggers (people already trusted by).
- **EHAC Annual Meeting Plans** - major items: tabled for discussion at January 2023 Board meeting.
  - Accreditation decisions - one initial accreditation/3 reaccreditations
  - Graduate Guidelines Final Approval
  - Integration of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) across EHAC policy and criteria
  - Strategic planning for EHAC's future

**6.0 Next Board Meeting: January 30 at 10am Pacific**

**7.0 Adjournment at 2pm Pacific.**