



## National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

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

### EHAC Board Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2022 – 1:00pm Pacific time

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

**Board Members Absent:**

**Others attending:**

**EHAC Staff:** Leslie Mitchell

**1.0 Meeting Called to order at:** Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:09pm PST

#### 2.0 Standing Items

**2.1 Approval of Agenda:** January 12, 2022, agenda approved.

**2.2 Approval of November 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes:** Chris Sparks moved to approve the November 9, 2021 minutes. There was a second from Busch Isaksen and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 3.0 Reports

**3.1 AEHAP Update:** Dr. Ben Ryan - President - absent

- Murphy submitted: NEPHIP internships - 50 available. We must have applicants to fill the positions in order to have any chance of keeping the program EHAC focused. CDC has funded NEPHIP significantly over previous amounts and there is a push to expand the internship experience to non-EHAC accredited programs.

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

- Current Balance sheet - checking: \$11,587.18  
- savings: \$107,045.70
- Current Income and Expenses - Net Income: \$63,171.83

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

- NEHA/NEPHIP updates: see above
- BGC Advisor update - Gary Brown is replacing Dave Gilkey as an advisor to BGC
- Executive Director Employee Agreement

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

- MVSU - teach out plan details
  - Gilkey explained that MVSU will run out of time to graduate their current freshman based upon the current teach out plan. Their accreditation and extension end in 2023 as of right now. Their recently submitted plan does not indicate if they have taken action to accelerate the rate so the students can finish before 2023. Murphy suggests trying to speed students through the program so they can get done before 2023. Murphy also suggests asking if they

are going to make this effort? Board member feel that EHAC should not have to change its policy in order to meet the needs of one degree program, especially if they are not acting to mitigate the program closure for the students. By the end of 2023, current sophomores will have one more year, post loss of accreditation. If students were willing, they could transfer to MSSU's online program – at end of the students' Junior years. This assumes that students would want to take online classes. Busch Isaksen cautioned Board from breaking standard procedures around a mandated one year only extension. Ultimately EHAC wants to do all it can to support students but not does not want to jeopardize the rigor of accreditation criteria either.

- **ACTION - Gilkey and Mitchell will write a letter to MVSU suggesting that they move quickly to establish a pathway to graduation for freshman and sophomores by 2023, which will be the end of their accreditation and extension periods. Suggestions will include the option for students to take course material that is unavailable at MVSU at another EHAC accredited degree program (e.g. Missouri Southern). The Board suggested that MVSU have a plan in place by December 22, 2022.**

- **Western Carolina:**
  - **New Program Director Dr. Brian Byrd**
    - **Motion: Gilkey moved to approving Dr. Byrd as the new Program Director at Western Carolina University**
    - **Second: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Busch Isaksen**
    - **Vote: Unanimously approved**

### 3.5 Graduate Program Report: Vice Chair Busch Isaksen

- **University of Illinois, Springfield: new PD**
  - **Motion: Busch Isaksen moved to approve Dr. Lenore Killam as PD for UIS**
  - **Second: Gilkey**
  - **Discussion**
    - Busch Isaksen pointed out that Dr. Killam's title is "clinical instructor" and expressed concern about her stability in the position as she is neither tenured or a full professor. Busch Isaksen also pointed out that there is no requirement for a certain amount of contract time in Graduate Guidelines.
  - **Vote: Unanimously approved**

### 3.6 Committee Reports

- Undergraduate Req. Committee Update
  - Looking at technical items right now.
- Graduate Guidelines Committee Update (Busch Isaksen)
  - Moving forward slowly but making progress.
- Site Visit Best Practices Committee (Mitchell)
  - Hybrid Site Visit proposal (back pocket)
  - Google Glasses technology suggested by Tim. As technology changes and improves it might be easier to find some cost savings options.
- Values and Marketing Committee (Murphy)
  - Student assignment for finding programs ready for EHAC accreditation
  - Tim is combining student efforts into a final report.
- Bylaws and Policy Committee Update (Mitchell)
  - Meeting tomorrow.

### 4.0 Old Business:

## **5.0 New Business:**

- **Baylor – MPH Self-study concerns (Self-study lead - Kethireddy)**

Baylor MPH program – Self-study Lead Swat Kethireddy submitted objections to the MPH Program involving mapping learning objectives to syllabi. Busch Isaksen pointed out that is not required in EHAC Graduate Guidelines. Current Guidelines revisions are working towards requiring this type of course mapping but current Guidelines DO NOT require course mapping. Busch Isaksen did not feel that Kethireddy's concerns were valid for this reason. Busch Isaksen pointed out that it will be important to tease out concerns including items like whether graduate students can take lower level courses as part of their Masters degree, with new kinds of program structures (like 4+1 Masters degrees).

- **Potential Masters 4 + 1 Degree Programs** - Busch Isaksen would like the Board to establish EHAC accreditation criteria that address new program structures like "4+1" Masters programs.

## **6.0 Next Board Meeting: February 21 at 2pm**

## **7.0 Adjournment Mtg. adjourned at 1:05pm Pacific.**