



## National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

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

### **EHAC Board Meeting Minutes - September 22, 2022 - 1:00pm Pacific time**

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

**Board Members Absent:**

**Others attending:** Dr. Kim Lichtveld (AEHAP President)

**EHAC Staff:** Leslie Mitchell

**1.0 Meeting Called to order at:** Murphy called the meeting to order at 1.01pm PST

#### **2.0 Standing Items**

**2.1 Approval of Agenda:** Sabty moved to approve September 22, 2022, agenda. Second from Gilkey and agenda was approved unanimously

**2.2 Approval of August 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes:** Lewis moved to approve the August 25, 2022 minutes. There was a second from Elgethun and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **3.0 Reports**

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

- JEH - submitting in December 2022 and Summer 2023
- October 5 - webinar in the afternoon
- AEHAP Membership launch with option to donate. Main idea is to get students signed up so that AEHAP can interact directly with them rather through PDs.
- NEPHIP wrap up report by Carla Brown submitted to NEHA and CDC.
- Student Research Scholarship – AEHAP is revising application forms for students and judges and also asking more informational questions detailing their involvement in research.
  - **Action: Add Gilkey to list for judging SRC submissions.**

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

- Current Balance sheet - checking: \$ 5,665.33 as of August 31, 2022  
- savings: \$ 55,451.29 as August 31, 2022
- Current Income and Expenses - Net Income: \$6,244.10 as of August 31, 2022

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

- **Group of 5 Meeting update:**
  - Murphy summarized meeting for the Board. Purpose of the Group (EHAC, AEHAP, AAS, NEHA, CDC) is to move the entire EH profession forward together. Groups are working in their own silos, and we want to bring efforts together for support of each other in moving toward a similar goal or "end state" of growing the EH workforce.

- Second meeting in September – group began to develop strategic goals. Welford Roberts and Wendell Moore are leading/facilitating the planning effort.
  - Agreed on end state and need to assess current profession and determine how each group can work individually and as a group to make progress and find funding.
  - Will be asking for input from the Board and Council on state of the profession, etc.
  
- **Final Revised Policy Document**
  - **“Shall” vs “When practical”** discrepancy in articles of Constitution and Bylaws regarding when EHAC’s annual meeting will be held.
    - Murphy suggested the wording “EHAC shall have an annual meeting”. Meeting should not be tied to NEHA AEC.
      - Sabty - NEHA is changing meeting times yearly so EHAC needs to be flexible
      - Murphy’s suggested wording allows for at least one meeting per year in which accreditation actions take place. This can take place any time the Council chooses and does not depend on NEHA.
    - **Constitution - Article VI: new wording approved**
      - **Motion: Sabty moved to change the wording of Constitution Article VI to “The Council shall meet annually.** Additional meetings may be called by the Chair.”
      - **Second: Weckwerth**
      - **Vote: Unanimously Approved**
    - **Bylaws – Article IV. Meetings:**
      - **Motion: Gilkey moved to change the wording of Bylaws Article IV to The Council shall meet annually and the agenda for this meeting shall include accreditation actions, election of officers, and the annual reports of officers and standing committees. The date and location of annual meeting will be determined on an annual basis.**
      - **Second: Lewis**
      - **Vote: Approved unanimously**
    - **Welford Robert’s comment on pg. 32, #6. In Purpose of Accreditation**
      - Roberts submitted the following contextual comment "It seems to imply, for example, that only Caucasians should service Caucasian communities, African Americans should service African American Communities, etc. I think this would be better stated as “Encourage the preparation of diverse EH educated public health practitioners. “
      - This comment sparked a great deal of conversation regarding the role of EHAC as an accreditation organization related to producing either diverse graduates or producing graduates prepared to work in diverse communities. Further, the ensuing dialogue focused on either exiting or future efforts to measure the capability of programs to do both.
      - Murphy was of the opinion that EHAC purpose/mission is to create graduates prepared to work in diverse communities - culturally aware and sensitive graduates. Sabty agreed. Murphy emphasized that is EHAC’s duty to produce culturally competent graduates and the employer’s duty to train new employees in how to work effectively in their specific community. Gilkey submitted that EHAC is already in the business of encouraging a diverse student population and that EHAC already measures this diversity in the Annual Update Survey. Gilkey supported diversity encouraging language regarding students Kim Lichtveld pointed out that if you are going to discuss diversity, you must be all inclusive – not only color or gender, but accessibility issues, international issues, etc.

- Sabty pointed out that #5 in the “Purpose” list spreads to Robert’s concern and points out the preparation of graduate for the diverse challenge associate with the field of EH.
- Weckwerth suggested the wording: **“Encourage the preparation of EH graduates who are culturally competent.”**
- Lewis asked where is the intersection of EH cultural competency with Environmental Justice? Murphy asked if Council should add a cultural competency topic to the starred areas of Technical Topics in the UG Requirements, = elevating these topics to requirements in order to make sure students are getting cultural competency education.

- **Action – Mitchell will use a survey to ask Program Directors whether they require cultural competency/sensitivity training/coursework for their EH students. And, if so, what is the name of the course or is it a cross cutting topic?**

- **Action – Mitchell will arrange a joint meeting of the Bylaws and Policy and UG Requirements Revisions Committee to discuss the following:**

- **What is EHAC’s purpose(s) around diversity – to encourage a diverse student populations and/or to ensure graduates who are culturally competent and able to work in a various community situations.**

- **Where should the culturally competent and diversity topics fall – in EHAC Policy, in UG and Graduate Requirements – both?, in EHAC’s mission paragraph, purpose of accreditation list? Murphy felt that it may be more effective to require the topic rather than mention it in the mission or purpose because the main goal is to ensure students are being instructed in this area.**

- Weckwerth recognized that there is concern about adding classes to required courses in criteria. Murphy pointed out that the topic can be cross cutting and integrated into many courses rather than requiring the creation of a new course. Requiring the topic would encourage/force programs to comply.

- Site Visitor and Self-study reviewer assignment and training update - **Tabled (below topic not discussed)**

- 2023 AEC - EHAC presentation? - **Tabled**

- Program Recruitment Effort – Murphy summarized:

- University of Pittsburg – Murphy and Mitchell met with Dean Lichtveld and faculty from their School of Public Health. Their MPH meets EHAC criteria and their BSPH is very close to meeting UG Requirements. Thanks to Kim Lichtveld for the introduction. Mitchell will maintain contact with University of Pittsburg.

- Mitchell has sent introductory letters to:

- Tuskegee - responded that they are interested in relation to their undergraduate program but not immediately.

- Tennessee State University -

- Alabama A&M - no response

- Howard University

- Morehouse School of Medicine - no response

- Old Dominion University (not an HBCU) - Dr. James Blando responded that he would pass information on to School of Public Health. Mitchell will be meeting with James Speckhart soon (USPHS and on ODU’s advisory committee) and will bring the subject up again.

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

- University of Washington reaccreditation request:

- **Motion: Gilkey motioned to approve UW’s request for an extension**

- **Second: Lewis**
- **Vote: Unanimously approved**

- Brigham Young University – onsite recruitment visit scheduled with Kai Elgethun and Jesse Bliss for Nov. 16
- UG Requirements Update (Gilkey/Mitchell) – may end up adding something more to DEI in addition to Social Determinants of Health.

### 3.5 Graduate Program Report: Vice Chair Elgethun

- Creighton University - accreditation interest update.
  - There is interest in accreditation for their BS program, but they would have to hire a new faculty member to support creation of a degree program.
- Guidelines Comm. update - tabled

### 3.6 Committee Reports – Tabled (below topic not discussed)

- EHAC Mtg. Structure Comm. (Mitchell/Weckwerth)
  - Accreditation Term - should it be defined?
  - Advertise Board meetings to Council
    - Allow raising of new topics for further discussion under New Business
    - Allow for any announcements from Council attendees at end of meeting
  - Create Committee to review emerging topics related both to UG and Graduate criteria as well as to EHAC accreditation in general (e.g., sharing of courses, need for outside accreditation, etc.). This committee would serve as kind of a clearing house for making recommendation for consideration to the Board.
- Nominations Committee - planning to meet
- Fundraising Committee - planning to meet

### 4.0 Old Business:

### 5.0 New Business: Tabled (below topics not discussed)

- Tribal College recruitment - Egger's ideas (Mitchell) (good topic for an Emerging Topics Committee!)
  - Education agreements between two year Tribal Colleges and a four year partner with an established EH degree
  - 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 HIS system for EHAC Council

### 6.0 Next Board Meeting: November 17 at 1pm Pacific

### 7.0 Adjournment at 2:09pm Pacific.