

## EHAC Board Meeting Minutes - January 30, 2023: 10-11:30am Pacific

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

**Council Members Present:** DeBrena Hilton, Lok Pokhrel, Mike Quinn, Welford Roberts, Chad Brown, Priscilla Oliver, Wendell Moore

**Others attending:** Kim Lichtveld – AEHAP President

**EHAC Staff:** Leslie Mitchell

### 1.0 Meeting Called to order at: 10:01am Pacific

### 2.0 Standing Items

2.1 **Approval of Agenda:** Elgethun motioned to approve agenda. Second from J. Lewis and agenda was approved unanimously.

2.2 **Approval of the December 15, 2023 Minutes:** Motion to approve the December 15, 2023 Minutes by Dave Gilkey with a second from Jason Lewis. Minutes were approved unanimously

### 3.0 Reports

3.1 AEHAP Report - President Kim Lichtveld

- AEHAP Board meeting held last week
- Review of donation received in 2022 – enough to fund two Student Research Competition (SRC) winners' trip to 2023 AEC and awards for several others
- BGC invitation for Subject Matter Experts – Mitchell working to set up an informational meeting of EHAC Board and AEHAP Board to learn more about the two new credentials they are creating.

### 3.2 Treasurer's Report

- Current Balance Sheet - \$113,920.74 Total Liabilities and Equity
- Current Income and Expense Sheet - \$59,656.74 Net Income

### 3.3 Chairpersons/ED Report (Murphy/Mitchell)

- University of Pittsburgh - request for extension of initial accreditation process (Site Visit as their Self-Study has been submitted)
  - G. Brown volunteered to be a Site Visitor for U. Pittsburgh if an extension is approved.
  - Murphy submitted that it is a good idea to schedule for next year and to request more information to update their Self-Study.
  - Mitchell suggested that a year extension might provide time for students to graduate from their UG EH program as well. Pittsburg had been interested in EHAC accreditation for their undergraduate program.
  - **Motion: Gilkey motioned to grant a one-year extension for the University of Pittsburgh's MPH EH Site Visit from Winter/Spring 2023 to Winter/Spring 2024.**
  - **Second: Sabty**
  - **Vote: Unanimously passed**
- BGC (Board of Global Environmental Health Credentials)
  - Mitchell reported on a request from BGC to provide Subject Matter Experts to participate in a survey related to two new credentials. Mitchell is attempting to arrange an informational

meeting with BGC and AEHAP's Board in order to learn more about these new credentials – prior to sharing the request for SMEs.

- BGC has invited EHAC (and AEHAP) to attend a February 24 meeting on the topic of the importance of credentials. EHAC would like to attend to learn more about what BGC is doing in the credential area:
  - Council and Board shared a great deal of concern and skepticism related to the increase in the number of credentials. Concerns focused on potential watering down of credentials and all felt it was important to attend the Feb. 24 meeting to learn more about BGC's plans and goals.
  - **Actions:**
    - **Murphy will attend virtually for EHAC.**
    - **Mitchell will provide an invitation to the meeting to Gary Brown, AAS (Roberts/Vince Radke), and Priscilla Oliver once it is available.**

### 3.4 Vice Chair for Undergraduate Program Report (Gilkey)

- **ETSU request for accreditation extension:**
  - **Gilkey moved to grant East Tennessee State University's BSEH degree program a one-year extension on their accreditation.**
  - **Second: Weckwerth**
  - **Discussion: Jason Lewis abstained from vote due to COI – graduate of ETSU.**
  - **Vote: Unanimously approved**
- **Colorado State University - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of EHAC accreditation** - April 13-14, 2023 - provide a plaque, other ideas?
  - Dave Gilkey and Gary Brown will be attending the celebration for EHAC and NEHA respectively.
    - Dave would be happy to present for EHAC.
    - EHAC will provide a commemorative plaque for the CSU anniversary.
    - **NEHA is planning to present a plaque to celebrate as well. Brown will encourage NEHA to recognize these types of anniversaries annually at the NEHA AEC awards ceremony.**
- **UG Requirements update**
  - Gilkey reported that the Committee will be meeting in February to address final comments and the Interpretations portion of the document.

### 3.5 Vice Chair for Graduate Program Report (Elgethun)

- Graduate Guidelines revisions update - Elgethun reported that he and Busch Isaksen have invested more than 60 hours in the revision process. They will complete a first draft on Thursday and pass this on to Sharron LaFollette for comment and then reconvene the Guidelines Revisions Committee, once LaFollette responds.

### 4.0 Committee Reports

- **Bylaws and Policy Comm – Mitchell presented a revised version of Policy 4.6 - Reporting Obligations and Annual Update Surveys and Dues Requirements.**
  - **Brown motioned to approve Policy 4.6**
  - **Second: Weckwerth**
  - **Discussion:**
    - **Roberts suggested making structural changes to 1.1.1 and 3.3.3**
  - **Vote: Unanimously approved**

- Nominations Committee update (Mitchell)
  - Mitchell reported that 5 Academics and 3 Practitioners have been nominated which meets the need, plus one Academic.

## 5.0 New Business

- **EHAC Annual Meeting Plans:**
  - **Strategic Planning** - Wendell Moore has offered to lead a short and long term strategic planning process for EHAC that will include strategies for
    - Fundraising
    - Policy integration related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
    - Accreditation Criteria
    - Student and Program Recruitment
    - Organizational development/growth
    - **Mitchell requested volunteers to assist with the process.**

## 6.0 Open Forum:

- **Chad Brown - Ohio EH Association is looking at how to recruit more students into EH**
  - They are looking for ideas.
  - Murphy commented that high school students do not know about EH as a career and need to be educated.
- **Mike Quinn – EHOPAC announcement**
  - Scheduled to talk with IHS about COSTEP program – IHS only received to 3 applications for their internships – they need to fill 20 at least. They have placed internship opportunities on USA JOBS. Mike Quinn will send this announcement to Mitchell for distribution to programs.
  - Other departments may start using dual application opportunities as well due to the lack of applications to JRCOSTEP (due mostly to short applications period and poorly timed application period).
  - HIS (up to 20 COSTEPS per year) only received 3 applications.
- **Tribal University Committee** - Mitchell mentioned Mari Eggers desire to work on engaging Tribal College in Environmental Health and with EHAC. Mitchell explained that this effort will need Committee support and asked for volunteers:
  - Sabty, Murphy, and Quinn are interested in serving on the Committee
  - Sabty – NIEHS – potential money for program recruitment efforts – focused on tribes.
- **Murphy discussed preparation of a Program Recruitment Proposal – desire is to have one EHAC accredited degree program in every state.**
  - Course share option for smaller universities (hire EHAC faculty as adjunct - share core courses)
  - Program recruitment partnering with CDC/HBCUS
  - Wendell Moore – commented that establishing one university in each state can be part of EHAC’s strategic planning process, along with tribal efforts. Murphy emphasized importance of having written strategic plan we can share with others.
  - Brown reported on NEHA’s “marketing the profession tool kits for public health depts”. He would like for NEHA to create student focused recruitment tool kits for university EH programs, as well. Brown reported that Ana Kahn (USPHS) is going to be the next President of NEHA. She is the Communications Director for CDC and will be highly focused on this topic as NEHA President. Brown encouraged everyone to attend an April 18-19 marketing the EH profession presentation by NEHA.

- Sabty raised issue of a lack of alignment among REHS exam and EHAC curriculum. Brown commented that NEHA is aware of the issue that the REHS is not aligned with teaching programs, and it is hard for students to pass the REHS exam. Sabty emphasized that the two should be aligned. Murphy submitted the answer is simple – like so many other professional entities – there could be 2 exams – one for recent graduates and one for professionals. Brown suggested that the Group of 5 might help us get to that point.

**8.0 Murphy adjourned the meeting at 11:29am Pacific.**