EHAC Annual Meeting of the Council*

July 12, 2025 - Hybrid Meeting Minutes

*__Abbreviations used in these minutes:__ Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP), Board of Global Health Credentialing (BGC), National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC), Environmental Health (EH), Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee (EHOPAC), Graduate (G), Graduate Environmental Health Certificate (GEHC), Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JRCOSTEP), Program Director (PD), National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), National Environmental Health Internship Program (NEPHIP), Undergraduate (UG

Table of Contents

1. Call to Order: 3
1.1 Welcome and Introductions: 3
2.0 Officer Reports 3
2.1 Executive Director's Report: 3
2.2 Secretary's Report: 3
2.3 Treasurer's Report: 3
2.4 Vice Chairs for Undergraduate Programs Report: 3
2.5 Vice Chair for Graduate Programs Report: 4
3.0 Nominations Committee Report: 4
4.0 Accreditation Actions: 5
4.1 Accreditation Action: University of Illinois, Springfield 5
4.2 Accreditation Action: Montana State University 5
5.0 Protocol Visits 6
4.3 Accreditation Action: Central Michigan University 6
4.4 Accreditation Action: East Tennessee State University 7
4.5 Accreditation Action: California State University, San Bernardino 7
7.0 Adjourn 8

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Tania Busch Isaksen called the meeting to order at 9:03AM MST.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions: EHAC Chair Tania Busch Isaksen

- **Invited Board, current and elected Council Members to introduce themselves**
- **EHAC 2025 Council Attendees:**
  - **Onsite**: Chair - Tania Busch Isaksen, Treasurer – Cindy Weckwerth, Vice Chair for Undergraduate Programs – Jason Lewis, Vice Chair for Graduate Programs – Mike Quinn, Member at Large – Lee Newman, Timothy Albright, Gary Brown, Margaret Eggers, Sandra Long, Michele Morrone, Christopher Sparks, Anne Marie Zimeri, Laura Suppes
  - **Virtual**: Secretary – Clint Pinion, Kim Hall, Sunny Wesey, DeBrena Hilton, Priscilla Oliver, Welford Roberts, Lok Pokhrel
  - **Council Members Absent:**
  - **Guest attendees:** 2025-2026 Council Members Elect: Rania Sabty (newly elected Practitioner); Dustin Schreiner from Montana State University
  - **EHAC Staff:** Leslie Mitchell
- **Zoom Logistics**
- **Approval of Agenda:**
  - Agenda - Approved

2.0 Officer Reports

2.1 Executive Director's Report: Leslie Mitchell

- Mitchell provided an update on accredited programs, work activities for 2024-2025 and plans for 2025-2026

2.2 Secretary's Report: Dr. Clint Pinion

- Pinion reported on Board meetings held in the 2024-2025 EHAC Fiscal Year and major decisions made at the 2024 EHAC Annual Meeting

2.3 Treasurer's Report: Mitchell and Cindy Weckwerth presented the financial documents

- **FY 2024-2025 Financial Report: October 1, 2024 - July 2, 2025**
  - **Balance Sheet:**
    - Total Bank Accounts: $81,060.80 as of July 2, 2025
  - **Income and Expense Report as of July 2, 2025:**
    - Gross income: $110,944.01
    - Income from Accreditation: $99,250.00
    - Net income: $33,758.30
  - **Proposed EHAC Budget for 2025-2026 (fiscal year from October 1 - September 30):**
    - **Motion**: Michelle Morrone moved to approve the 2025-2026 budget as presented.
    - **Second**: Lee Newman
    - **Discussion:**
    - **Decision: Motion carries**

2.4 Vice Chairs for Undergraduate Programs Report: CDR Jason Lewis

- **University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire - 50th anniversary of accreditation**
  - Mitchell presented a 50th anniversary plaque via video during UW Eau Claire's 50th anniversary celebration of their EHAC accreditation.
- **Updates of Decisions of the Board:**

- **New Program Directors approved by Board in 2024--2025**
  - Dr. Jefferson Moody at Old Dominion University
  - Dr. Soma Syrulwa at Benedict College (replaced Milton Morris who retired in May after more than 30 years in Environmental Health).
- **2024-2025 degree programs up for reaccreditation:**
  - California State University, San Bernardino
  - Central Michigan University
  - East Tennessee State University
  - Illinois State University
  - Montana State University
  - Texas Southern University

- **2025-2026 Programs up for Reaccreditation:**
  - East Central University
  - Missouri Southern University
  - Old Dominion University
  - West Chester University
  - Western Kentucky University
  - Uncertain as of July 12, 2025
  - California State University, Northridge
  - University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
- **2025-2026 Potential Initially Accrediting Degree Programs**
  - Alaska Pacific University
  - Alabama A&M University
  - Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

2.5 Vice Chair for Graduate Programs Report:

- **2024-2025 Reaccrediting Degree Programs**
  - University of Illinois, Springfield
- **2025-26 degree programs up for reaccreditation 2025-2026**
  - Western Kentucky University
  - Moderately certain about California State University, Northridge
- **AEC Graduate Guidelines Presentation – Mike Quinn on Thursday July 17 at 8am**

3.0 Nominations Committee Report: Chris Sparks

- **2025-2026 newly elected Academicians:**
  - Dr. Margaret Eggers
  - Dr. Anne Marie Zimeri
- **2025-2026 newly elected Practitioners:**
  - CDR Drew Kupper
  - Dr. Welford Roberts
  - Dr. Rania Sabty

4.0 Accreditation Actions:

4.1 Accreditation Action: University of Illinois, Springfield - Graduate

Program Strengths: Students and alumni support the program. The advisory committee supports the program and the college dean was supportive of the program. The location of the campus is conducive to student internships. UIS is developing a hands-on monitoring program. Existing faculty of the program are engaged. The program has good job placement within state government.

Program Challenges/Recommendations: The administration of the program is in flux. The advisory committee is comprised of former students and meetings are infrequent. Students reported minimal hands-on experience outside of internships. The program is heavily dependent on an international student body. Some of the program's courses are not being taught at a graduate level. The program is comprised predominantly of junior faculty.

Program Director Comments: Dr. Ting noted that the academic reorganization of UIS led to the flux in program administration. The program has hired two new faculty members. The program director noted that the advisory board does consist primarily of program alumni. The program has hired new faculty members which will assist in offering appropriate coursework for graduate courses. The program has purchased new analytical equipment and has field stations that will be used by students. The new faculty members are on board with incorporating laboratory sessions and field studies.

Motion: Site Visit Team recommends a conditional accreditation for up to 2 years based upon the Program providing:

1. **a review of all course syllabi (toxicology, risk assessment, etc.) with CV for faculty teaching the course – including a general match of faculty to syllabi (to ensure that faculty are qualified to teach)**
2. **a formalized transition plan for appointment of a permanent EH Program Director by the 2026-2027 academic year (per conversation that Lee Newman had with the Dean regarding the need for faculty qualified to teach EH courses and the need for a permanent Program Director with Environmental Health experience and educational background).**

Vote: Motion carries

Letter:

- Include 1. and 2. under motion for conditional approval.
- Recommend – more advisory committee meetings

4.2 Accreditation Action: Montana State University - Undergraduate

Strengths:

- Undergraduate research is required of all UGs in University; folks felt well prepared to conduct research and present their findings
- Interdisciplinary nature of the departments (MCB & LRES) and program are valued
- Rigorous natural science foundation prepares students to be successful in a variety of EH-related career pathways
- Flexibility of curriculum/customizable for student's desired career path; folks remarked that they wouldn't be able to accomplish this without the broad applied science approach
- Internship opportunities plentiful and diverse depending on student's focus
- Fantastic faculty mentoring, especially from Dr. Eggers
- Access to resources/support for student travel to present research (e.g. NCR)
- "This program sets students up for success with the curriculum, mentoring, and internship support."

Challenges/Recommendations:

- Provide a timeline for the "retitled" LRES EH degree option course catalog posting and provide a link once published. This change has been completed.

Recommendations:

- Explore utilizing current University personnel expertise to increase food safety course content/certifications
- With the switch from MCB to LREHS home for EH degree option, there is an opportunity to market/rebrand EH profession and opportunities in MT
- Increasing environmental health-focused faculty to support curriculum and mentoring
- Encourage and support the development of a student environmental health association and/or explore connecting with MEHA
- Explore ways to broaden external advisory committee feedback

Program Director Comments: Mari Eggers was very appreciative of the Site Visitors and their support for the program in the presence of the administration. The move will be a big benefit for students. Dustin Schreiner (Occupational Safety/Health Spec II for MSU) spoke about his involvement in the Food Safety courses that are part of the MSU program.

Motion: Site Visit team recommends full accreditation for 6 years with no requirements.

Vote: Motion carries

Letter:

- Succession Planning
- Additional Environmental health focused faculty - to support mentoring especially
- Administrative support – especially for internship management
- Reiterate recommendations

5.0 Protocol Visits

- **NEHA - President CPT Anna Khan, President Elect Larry Ramdin**

- **COSTEP - CDR Matt Albright provided an update on COSTEP related activities:**
  - **CDR Albright reviewed the listing of DEHS COSTEP/Extern participants for summer 2025 and described the tasks completed by the participants.**

4.3 Accreditation Action: Central Michigan University - Undergraduate

Strengths:

- Program support from the Deans
- Only EH program in Michigan
- The support and advising provided by Dr. Uzarski
- Internships (many complete two)
- Research opportunities for students
- The Hazardous Materials course
- The ServSafe training taught in Food Safety, Sanitation and Health
- New and active student group

Recommendations/Major findings:

- External advisory committee – more external members needed, particularly from the private sector
- Expand field trip and guest speaker opportunities
- Offer more opportunities for EH&S majors to interact
- Continue to expand opportunities for students to attend professional meetings and conferences.
- Curriculum: Community Health course does not cover EH planning in-depth
  - EHAC requires at least four environmental health technical areas be covered “in-depth”, which is defined as 20 hours.
  - The CMU Community Health course is currently listed as an in-depth technical area, but the course is no longer covering EH planning in-depth.

- Dr. Uzarski flagged this issue before our site visit and is in the process of adopting a new course (HSC 419WI, Community Health Assessment, Planning and Program Evaluation) to substitute Community Health that does cover environmental health planning in-depth.
- Dr. Uzarski expects HSC 419WI to be in the bulletin/catalog by spring 2026.

Program Director Comments: Dr. Rebecca Uzarski thanked the site visit team for their input. The program will seek more external members for their advisory committee.

Motion: The Site Visit Team moved for full reaccreditation for six years with the caveat that the program will continue with its course update approval process (Course HSC 419WI, Community Health Assessment, Planning and Program Evaluation – which is replacing Community Health which no longer includes "in depth" EH planning) and contact the EHAC office if the course update is not approved.

- **Vote: Motion carries**

Letter:

- The program will continue with its update and revision to the planning course.

4.4 Accreditation Action: East Tennessee State University - Undergraduate

Strengths:

- Responsive faculty
- Internship opportunities
- Administration support
- Facilities
- Curriculum
- Advisory board
- New chair
- Community college connection
- Student skills
- Responsive to workforce needs

Recommendations:

- Promote student involvement in professional organizations
- Use experienced recruiters for major
- Identify sustainable support for faculty development
- Develop an introductory EH class
- Start planning for reaccreditation with new requirements

Program Director Comments: Dr. Rod Handy noted that ETSU is pursuing an EH oriented master's degree program**.**

Motion: The Site Visit team recommended full accreditation for 6 years.

- **Vote: Motion carries**

Letter:

- **Recommendations:**
  - Bring UG program in line with current (2023) UG Requirements, as soon as possible.
  - Encourage their pursuit of an MSEH program.

4.5 Accreditation Action: California State University, San Bernardino - Undergraduate

Strengths:

- Well-developed learning objective mapping throughout the courses, rigorous study
- Industry experienced faculty
- Longevity, known by graduates and professionals in the field

- Exceptionally well-developed internship structure, including forms and evaluation process
- Well-developed internship pipelines/Reputation of program
- Actively engaged external advisory committee
- Importance to the community
- Dr. Nikbakhtzadeh's and Dr. Kethireddy's commitment to their students

Challenges and Suggestions:

- Explore option to add GIS as an elective
- Offer a choice of two EH electives a semester, instead of just one option
- Continue to encourage multiple internships
- Consider expanding student ride along opportunities
- Continue efforts to develop student/alumni association
- Continue efforts to increase enrollment. Students recommended that the EH program be promoted in both the new student and new transfer student orientations.

Program Director Comments: Dr. Mahmood Nikbakhtzadeh noted that a GIS course is being developed. He noted that low enrollment in electives prevents the program from offering more electives.

Motion: Full Accreditation for six years with no conditions.

Vote: Motion carries

Letter:

6.0 Open Board Officer Slate

7.0 Adjourn until 9am Sunday July 13, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Clint Pinion, 2024-2025 EHAC Secretary

Leslie D. Mitchell, Executive Director