MPH Report

August 2021

In May, the MPH program said goodbye to two faculty and welcomed two new T/T assistant professors. The revised MPH faculty met to go over the soon-to-be-tweaked CEPH competencies, and to identify courses that will be taking the lead and sharing in the required competency assessments. We also opted to craft consistent syllabi statements related to diversity and academic integrity, and voted to modify out program-based competencies based on feedback from the survey of public health professionals. Minutes from this meeting and the revised syllabus prototype are linked on the agenda of the August 2021 meeting page.

Last spring, faculty senate passed a motion to standardize JUMP criteria, but it was vetoed by then Provost Stevens. Thus, I submitted a revision to reduce admission hours from 75 to 60, and was required to add that at least 30 hours had to be completed at WKU. The Grad School approved and the new requirements are in effect.

Our campus-based enrollments remain low, with most of the enrollments coming from JUMPers or JUMPeds. One of my goals this AY is to ramp up JUMP recruitment. To that end, the MPH faculty will be looking at course days and times to reduce potential scheduling conflicts with BSPH core courses.

The MPH program is also looking at embedding the GrAPE products, but not all of the hours, into the core curriculum. We will be working toward this goal this AY.

There are several CEPH-tasks that need to be accomplished this AY. First, we have to submit a substantial change notification for both the MPH and BSPH program. Second, once CEPH announces the changes to accreditation criteria, I will work to revise assessment documents, establish needs and timelines, and communicate this with everyone. Third, all faculty teaching required courses need to complete content review and competency alignments. Collectively, we’ll review these at a January workday. And last, we need to convene our executive advisory committee in February.