

# PHUGAS Meeting, October 8, 2020

Hey, all! As you may know, the PHUGAS meeting we had planned for 3pm today didn't work out because Zoom kept crashing for everyone. Instead of rescheduling, we're going to try out a new PHUGAS "meeting" method. Throughout this email you will see links to discussion board forums, email addresses, and more; click on them to open the webpage and share your own ideas, feedback, comments, etc. If you want to say something anonymously, I recommend sending a private email to Beth Adams ([elizabeth.adams@wku.edu](mailto:elizabeth.adams@wku.edu)) or using the [discussion boards](#). On each discussion board thread, there is an option to leave an anonymous comment.

## Introduction to the Graduate President

The new PHUGAS Graduate President is MPH student Beth Adams (pictured below)! Here are some things Beth wants you to know about her:

- Second year MPH student, expected graduation Summer 2021
- Favorite MPH classes: Biostats & Advanced Epidemiology
- Health Careers and Education Specialist at the South Central KY AHEC
- Served as the Graduate Curriculum Committee Member 2019/2020
- Excited to serve as the Graduate President this year!



## Elected Positions

Even though we have our Graduate President, there are still three elected positions that we have not filled. Here are the open elected positions and a brief description of each:

- Undergraduate President – a BSPH student who will lead PHUGAS meetings with the Graduate President and will gather feedback from other BSPH students; the Undergraduate President is expected to attend Joint MPH-BSPH meetings\* as well to represent the voice of the undergraduate students to program faculty and staff
- Vice President – an MPH or BSPH student who will help the Presidents plan and prepare for the PHUGAS meetings; Vice President is expected to fill the role of either President if either President cannot attend a Joint MPH-BSPH meeting\* or if either President steps down
- Secretary – an MPH or BSPH student who will take minutes for the PHUGAS meetings; in the age of Zoom, the secretary should also set up the PHUGAS meetings so that they can have direct access to the recordings and transcripts

If you want to fill any of these elected positions, send an email to [marina.rust@wku.edu](mailto:marina.rust@wku.edu).

\*To see a list of these Joint MPH-BSPH meetings, which are already set for the semester, [click here](#). All meetings are virtual this semester and will most likely be virtual next semester.

## Volunteer Positions

There are currently four committees on which we would need a PHUGAS representative; however, because of a motion set to come up next week, we are only looking for volunteers to serve as a PHUGAS representative on two committees. The two committees are:

- Graduate Curriculum Committee – this committee has oversight of all MPH curricular issues; the committee is there to insure the MPH program’s curriculum is “strongly grounded in public health knowledge and meets accreditation standards... and reflects the needs of the public health workforce.”
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – similar to the Graduate Curriculum Committee, this committee has oversight of all BSPH curricular issues; the committee is there to insure the BSPH program’s curriculum is “strongly grounded in public health knowledge and meets accreditation standards... and reflects the needs of the public health workforce.”

To see more about these two committees and our current program governance structure, [click here](#).

If you want to fill any of these volunteer positions, send an email to [marina.rust@wku.edu](mailto:marina.rust@wku.edu).

## Motion on Committee Structure

As the previously section mentioned, there are currently more committees than we are actually looking for volunteers for. Currently there are the following committees:

- Graduate Curriculum
- Undergraduate Curriculum
- Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity
- Assessment
- Graduate Admission (no PHUGAS rep allowed)

Due to the decreasing number of faculty and the importance of certain topics to every conversation, a motion will be made to begin including Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity and Assessment items in the Joint MPH-BSPH Meetings. So instead of being separate committees, they will be regular agenda items for the larger group. That means the remaining committees would be the following:

- Graduate Curriculum
- Undergraduate Curriculum
- Graduate Admission (no PHUGAS rep allowed)

Ultimately, by including Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity and Assessment, they become things we are talking about more and as a whole group. The two Curriculum Committees work with more detailed information and CEPH guidelines, so they continue to stay separate so that they do not take up too much time in the larger group. If we were to include all committees into the Joint MPH-BSPH Committee, that larger committee would have to meet more often and for longer, putting more work onto faculty, staff, and PHUGAS representatives. That sums up the conversation by faculty at the last Joint MPH-BSPH Meeting, but it will not be voted on until next week.

In order for your PHUGAS Graduate President to give the appropriate feedback and vote to represent the student body, we need to know what you think about this. Please visit the [discussion board thread](#) to give any feedback to this motion.

To see more about our current program governance structure, [click here](#).

## External Advisory Committee

The program is working on setting up an external advisory committee – a group of community partners, agencies, and organizations who can give us feedback and suggestions for our public health curriculum. If you have any suggestions on agencies or organizations you think should be added to this list, please add them to [this discussion board thread](#).

## KPHA Hiatus

At the last Joint MPH-BSPH Meeting, Dr. Macy shared that KPHA will take a hiatus this semester. Due to COVID-19 limiting the amount of service projects available and low student involvement in the past, this was the best solution for this semester. If you have any feedback on this, add them to [this discussion board thread](#).

## Topics or Spotlights for Future PHUGAS Meetings

If you have any special topics or spotlights you'd like to see in future PHUGAS Meetings, please add them to [this discussion board thread](#). Because PHUGAS is primarily a program governance group, topics and spotlights should be directly related to the MPH and/or BSPH programs.

## General Feedback

If you have any other comments, ideas, or feedback, use one of the following to share:

- [Start your own discussion board thread within this forum](#)
- [Leave a comment on the PHUGAS Facebook Group page](#)
- Send an email to the PHUGAS advisor at [marina.rust@wku.edu](mailto:marina.rust@wku.edu)
- Send an email to the PHUGAS Graduate President at [elizabeth.adams@wku.edu](mailto:elizabeth.adams@wku.edu)

[Visit the PHUGAS webpage for more information on PHUGAS and PHUGAS meetings!](#)