

Educational Outcomes Committee Meeting

MINUTES

January 27, 2005

AMENDED on February 10 meeting. (Point 4).

Attendees: Ann Abbott, Heidi Kay, Barbara Kennedy, Connie Mizak, Hana Osman, Aurora Sanchez-Anguiano, Michelle Sebti.

Absent: Dagne, Getachew

Minutes prepared by Dr. Abbott.

The meeting began at: 9:00 AM

1. Minutes of last meeting were approved (prepared by Dr. Mizak).
2. Discussion of the Results of the Fall, 2004 Comprehensive examination and what competencies or indicators to assess for the next outcome report (continue with the present competencies?)– Aurora had distributed the information; results have not gotten better despite changes made, with standardization of question format and other changes in the questions themselves. Epi and Bio continue to account for a higher number of failures among those who failed the whole comp exam (Michelle had these figures). Dr. Liller had suggested moving to consideration of the SBS core and leave the Epi core for the time being. A concern was expressed that we should not ‘leave’ Epi as a topic.

This topic was left open because committee members wanted additional analysis of the results, to get a profile of who fails, including correlation with core course grades earned, GPA, GRE (which Michelle thought had been done) or just GRE quantitative section score. We also wanted to know when core courses were taken in relation to date on which exam was taken and any differences among those students for whom English is a second language. Concern was expressed that perhaps advising of students should uniformly include expectation that all core courses and the core comp be completed in the first 3 semesters of the student’s program, in order to improve performance. Aurora will inquire as to who will produce those figures. The committee felt this information was needed to assess the exam results before taking any further steps.

Another question the committee thought relevant was whether the student had attended the review sessions but we were aware of no way to get the answer since some of the review sessions are distance learning sessions.

There was discussion about whether the review sessions should continue, that such an approach may not be appropriate at the graduate level, that some students were otherwise not preparing so the concern was that the review session availability seemed to take the initiative from the student when we agreed they offered only a brief time for students to bring issues and questions from their own review of core course material. In the past students have complained the exam material was not covered in the review. On the other hand some may have some inappropriate expectations of being given answers to the exam from the review sessions. Review sessions were handled by GAs for the last comps in an attempt to deal with some false expectations of students.

3. Continue discussion of what other outcome indicators we can use in the future (continue comp exam, move to capstone). – The committee should not leave discussion of comps. We are very interested in an exploration of use of the Capstone course but that involves a number of issues that are beyond this committee. What material would be covered and how? The curriculum committee would need to be involved. The discussion should include the probability of the Public Health profession going toward a national exam and how best to prepare students for that. Dean Petersen has had experience building a comprehensive course and we want to hear her experience as part of this discussion. Aurora will report to the Committee after the meeting of the committee chairs with Dean Petersen.
4. Discussion of the role of the Global Health Department. The question last time was whether Global Health would produce its own core section of the exam. Dr. Kay and Dr. Mizak advised the committee that the EOH core part of the comprehensive exam would comprise questions generated by each department but is still under discussion. **(Amended on February 10 by the committee members).**
5. We adjourned without a date of next meeting. Aurora will report to us on the meeting with Dr. Petersen.