

**COPH Faculty Assembly Meeting**  
**April 27<sup>th</sup> , 2015**  
**COPH Sam Bell Auditorium**  
**10:30 – 12:00 am**

President Dr. Tom Mason called the meeting to order at 10:32 am.

**1. Update from Dean Donna Petersen - General**

Dean Petersen thanked everyone for attending the curriculum meeting and apologized for missing two the meetings for a root canal. The Dean encouraged attendance at the next set of meetings in which both curricula and distance learning will be addressed.

The Dean reminded faculty that our discussions are occurring within the framework of the performance metrics used to assess funding. The current metrics can be viewed at the Board of Governor's website here:

[http://www.flbog.edu/about/budget/performance\\_funding.php](http://www.flbog.edu/about/budget/performance_funding.php).

The Dean asked faculty if they were in agreement that we seek to attract great students, prepare them for their futures, and graduate them quickly. Faculty agreed. Dean Petersen stressed that we offer single degrees at COPH:

- 1 MPH
- 1 MSPH
- 1 PhD
- 1 MHA
- 1 DrPH
- 1 BSPH

Dean Petersen mentioned that the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) has created new standards for undergraduate stand-alone programs and that this program does not include the traditional five core classes. The accreditation criteria can be found here: <http://ceph.org/assets/SBP-Criteria.pdf>. The new integrated/applied core has guided our efforts to transform the MPH but we will need to offer the core classes for a period of time to accommodate existing students. The Dean mentioned that the culminating experience is required and cannot change but some of the discussion in the small groups centered around field experience and special project changes. In addition, the small groups mentioned hiring people to do advising. The Dean then asked the faculty for questions and comments.

Dr. O'Rourke commented on new policy concerning dual degree programs. She mentioned that her department was most concerned with faculty as mentors but not advisors, faculty commitment to a physical presence in the department, and the department's desire to create a grading rubric for the special project which is specific for the competencies needed for Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Dr. Stuart added support to the idea that students could be triaged for admittance based on their likelihood of succeeding in the programs. She asked that we also consider that

some students apply to one program because they believe they will be accepted to that program but they fully intend to switch departments after acceptance.

Dr. Salazar asked if we will be telling students which areas in which they can specialize (based on our assessments of their abilities). The Dean responded that we can indeed do this.

Dr. Stuart asked if students will still have a focus area.

Dr. Orban commented that MHA students complete annual shadowing days.

Dr. Sappenfield stated that students should be encouraged to volunteer early within their interest area. This doesn't require that credit be earned but could if necessary be part of a class.

Dr. Mason commented that the timing of field experience is problematic. He strongly encourages his students to register for FE during the summer and noted that they require certain skill sets.

Dr. Novak noted that Global Health prepares students for international field experience and stated that the special project was suited more for the MSPH than the MPH student.

Dr. Stuart prefers that students use the summer for hands on opportunities including research, special projects, and field experiences and that they do not use summer as a time to load up on classes.

Dr. Sappenfield noted that practice in the summer is not necessarily good because many people are on vacation and fall/spring is better.

Dr. Mason noted that more information would be helpful on mentors available to students.

Dr. Stuart noted that many of the degrees could easily be handled with centralization of requirements, etc., but the MSPH and PhD degrees require specialization needed beyond what is needed for some of the other degrees.

Dr. Novak seconded that the MSPH and PhD degrees are research degrees.

Dr. Sappenfield stated that mentoring needs to start early so students get the skill sets they need for their culminating experience. He doesn't wish to see requirements result in "cookie cutter students".

Dr. Stuart commented that the college should consider the writing GRE scores as we currently do not have a minimum requirement for this portion of the GRE. She stated that this is essential for thesis, dissertation, and scientific publication.

Meeting adjourned: 11:19 am

Notes Respectfully Submitted by Jill Robert