



PHO
Department of Public Health
East Carolina University
1709 West Sixth Street
Greenville, NC 27834-2803

Public Health Graduate Student Organization

Thursday, November 6th, 2008

6:30, Allied Health Building 1345

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President, Elizabeth Baker.

Attendees: Elizabeth Baker, Jeffrey Bethel, David Blackley, Matasha Brown, Summer Choudhury, Neil Gilbird, Chris Green, Tandra Hilliard, Leisha Johnson, Travis Kauffman, Marissa Kleffman, Ruth Little, Rachel Loflin-Maguire, Brian Loveland, Kimberly Matthews, Becky Merrick, Ross Pendley, Eddie Reynolds, Anna Szamosi

II. Special Orders

a. Ms. Ruth Little, Deputy Director of Masters of Public Health Program

- i. Students have expressed concerns about being unable to enroll in the health education courses they need for the spring semester. These concerns have been acknowledged and there are several new electives that may be substituted with Dr. Novick's approval.
- ii. There have also been concerns expressed about rigor in classes taught by specific instructors and Dr. Novick will address this issue. Chronic Epidemiology will no longer be offered. However, Cancer Epidemiology will be offered and taught by Dr. Suzanne Lea. Dr. Novick was attending a meeting in Chapel Hill the next day to discuss the PhD in Epidemiology course of study that will be offered soon.
- iii. Ms. Little discussed the possibility of having a "Legislative Day" in Washington DC, in which students would be exposed to the legislative process through this National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) sponsored opportunity.
- iv. The Executive Marketing Committee seeks to recruit two student representatives to help guide them as the program expands into a school. Dr. Novick's slogan for the department is, "Practice Leaders to Tomorrow." The PHO was asked to nominate and select two students to serve on the Marketing Committee. This committee will likely meet monthly, except during the summer.
- v. Lastly, Ms. Little stressed the importance of the students expressing their concerns and suggestions to the faculty and staff to ensure that the program remains on course for the future. Please email Ms. Little at litlena@ecu.edu or Rachel Ward at wardr@ecu.edu if you would like her assistance.

- b. Dr. Jeff Bethel, CDC Epi Internship
 - i. Dr. Bethel began by asking all of the students to share their names with him.
 - ii. Dr. Bethel is a new faculty member, and he worked with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for a couple of years prior to coming to ECU. Dr. Bethel introduced the CDC Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program that is currently being offered.
 - 1. It is a two year program in which the fellow works directly with the CDC or with a state/local health agency.
 - 2. There are approximately 30-40 positions open for this fellowship.
 - 3. The process consists of submitting an application (due February 3rd), interviewing in Atlanta, interviewing with host agencies and then being matched to an organization and a particular program area.
 - 4. The prerequisites are three graduate level Epidemiology courses, one Biostatistics course, and a desire to pursue a career at the state or local level.
 - 5. There is a stipend of \$39,000 annually, plus relocation expenses, \$3,000 annually for health insurance and \$1,000 annually for professional development.
 - 6. Please speak with him if you are interested in applying. May graduates could begin this summer, as soon as July. Please visit www.cste.org for more information.
 - 7. Notably, the NC State Health Department typically has a fellow. A host agency can be anywhere in the United States. An applicant may also request to be placed in a specific location on their application and subsequently, their application will only be sent to specific locations.

III. Officer Reports

- a. President, Elizabeth Baker
 - i. Aaron Lucier was very impressed with our performance and has invited the PHO to volunteer with them again. Thank you to those who volunteered at PiCASO on October 18, 2008
 - 1. Marissa Kleffman, Summer Choudhury, Brain Loveland, Becky Merrick, Tandra Hilliard, Elizabeth Baker, Ross Pendley, and Eddie Reynolds
 - ii. Students who attended APHA were asked to comment on their experience. The consensus was that second year students get the most out of the experience, especially if they are looking for jobs or PhD programs. Notably, the trip was mostly funded by a combination of funds from the Graduate & Professional Student Senate and the Department of Public Health.
 - iii. Elizabeth asked if students were interested in joining the Marketing Committee. She suggested that one first year student and one second year student be selected. The students interested in being considered for the positions were Summer Choudhury, Rachel Maguire, Kimberly Matthews and Travis Kauffman.
- b. Vice President, Eddie Reynolds
 - i. Eddie announced that soccer playoffs would begin the next week. Once the soccer season ends, basketball will begin. Eddie thanked Neil, Elizabeth and Becky for attending all of the games and supporting the team.

- c. Treasurer, Ross Pendley
 - i. Students seeking reimbursements from NCPHA may see Ross. You may also see Ross to pay semester dues.
 - d. Parliamentarian, Marissa Kleffman
 - i. Currently, Marissa has received one t-shirt design submission. She asked all students to please send your ideas to her as soon as possible.
 - ii. Notably, “Department of Public Health” should be stated on the shirt to reflect our new status. Students may contact Marissa at mfk1225@ecu.edu with suggestions.
 - e. Secretary, Tandra Hilliard
 - i. All attendees were asked to sign the attendance sheet that had been passed around. The icebreaker activity was a modified game of Charades
 - ii. Sign-up sheets were distributed for the Homecoming tailgate and the Food Bank volunteer activity.
- IV. Special Reports
- a. Volunteer Committee (Becky Merrick)
 - i. Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina
 - 1. Friday, November 14th, 1:00-4:00 pm
 - a. Becky distributed consent forms that all volunteers must complete prior to working with the Food Bank. All volunteers are asked to wear close-toed shoes.
 - b. The following individuals have signed up to volunteer: Becky Merrick, Kimberly Mathews, Anna Szamosi, Leisha Johnson, Tandra Hilliard, Chris Green, Ross Pendley, Elizabeth Baker, Neil Gilbird, Dr. Jilcott, and Dr. Moore.
 - ii. December volunteer event
 - 1. Wednesday, Dec 3rd, Spring Arbor, 10:00-2:00
 - b. Social Committee (Travis Kauffman)
 - i. Tailgating for Homecoming, sign up
 - 1. Students interested in tailgating were asked to sign up. Students were encouraged to attend the Brody tailgate and then the special tailgate hosted by the PHO.
 - 2. Due to time conflicts, bowling was unable to be scheduled for the end of the semester. However, it will be a social event in February – date TBA.
- V. Old Business (none)
- VI. New Business (No Faculty Present)
- a. Update on Previous Session
 - b. **OPEN STUDENT DISCUSSION-not recorded in minutes**
- VII. Announcements
- a. Friday, December 5th, at 6:30, Elizabeth Baker will be hosting a student holiday party at her house. Please RSVP to Tandra Hilliard by December 1st. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange game, please bring an unmarked \$10 gift.
- VIII. Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned by President, Elizabeth Baker.

Prepared by Secretary Tandra Hilliard