

Meeting Minutes of the Governance Council
Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 2:30-5:00pm
Via Zoom

Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes

Glen Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. He requested and received approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 24, 2021 and the addendum to the minutes from the special April 15, 2021 meeting on the proposed new By-laws.

Dean's Report

Ayman reported on reopening of the school for the fall semester, noting that the situation with the coronavirus and the recommendations for reopening from CUNY are in flux. Referring to his May 4, 2021 note to the SPH community on the status of the reopening, he noted that 25% of the fall courses will be offered in person. He said that CUNY and SUNY recently announced that all students attending classes in person must be vaccinated (with special exemptions allowed for health-related and other reasons). Staff and faculty are expected to report to work in person for some days each week. CUNY has circulated flexible work guidelines for staff, which will be finalized this summer. He also noted that communications with any updates will be sent during the summer and he reminded everyone of the need to be flexible.

By-Laws: Discussion and Vote

The Chair said that the latest revision of the By-laws was sent to the Governance Council, along with a version noting the revisions made since the April 15th meeting. He summarized the extensive, transparent and more than year-long process leading to the document to be voted on today, and he invited further discussion. He noted that approval of the By-laws requires a majority vote and he confirmed quorum for this vote. The Chair called for a motion to hold the vote to accept and adopt the revised SPH By-laws, which was seconded and approved. The vote yielded the following result: 40 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 abstentions. The Chair said that the revised By-laws are accepted and adopted by the Governance Council.

Curriculum Committee Report

Sean Haley, Curriculum Committee Chair

Sean thanked the Committee and the staff for their work this year. He reported on the two votes requested today for proposed changes to the curriculum and course catalogue. The first vote is a proposal to remove PUBH840 as a pre-requisite to PUBH841 for MRSCH. The Chair called for a motion to hold a vote, which was seconded and approved. The vote yielded the following result: 40 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 abstention. The Chair said that the motion is carried and approved by the Governance Council. The second vote, which was discussed at the last Council meeting and tabled pending modifications, has been amended as per this discussion and is being brought back to the Council today. The vote is to change the catalogue language to clarify the transfer of credit and course residency. The Chair called for a motion to hold a vote, which was

seconded and approved. The vote yielded the following result: 43 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstentions. The Chair said that the motion is carried and approved by the Governance Council.

Sean then reported on the Committee's proposal to include a specific instructional goal on SPH's teaching mission and standards that meshes with SPH's Strategic Framework. This proposal is only for discussion today and it will be brought back to the Council for approval at a later meeting. Discussion followed. Suggestions included adding the concept of critical thinking and making the language more positive and inclusive. Sean said that the document will be posted to SharePoint for additional comments. Sean also noted that this summer the Committee will begin a review of the MPH/MS curriculum—a review of the core and concentration courses regarding the alignment of competencies and assessment—in preparation for the upcoming CEPH accreditation. Discussion followed.

APT Committee Report

Christian Grov, APT Committee Chair

Christian presented the APT administrative calendar for the upcoming academic year, highlighting the key dates and deadlines for faculty evaluations, sabbatical requests, etc. Faculty should contact him with any questions.

Admissions Committee Report

Ghada Soliman, Admissions Committee Chair

Ghada presented the latest fall 2021 admissions report, noting that fall PhD admissions are complete and 30 new students have been admitted. Fall admissions for the masters programs is underway, and the open house events and information sessions have been completed. Discussion followed on lagging enrollment in some programs and ideas were suggested for enhanced recruitment strategies including a digital marketing campaign, perhaps incorporating student testimonials, to reach prospective students.

Assessment Committee Report

Ilias Kavouras, Assessment Committee Chair

Ilias reported on the Assessment Committee's faculty, staff and student survey "Working remotely and moving forward." He reviewed the participation rates in the survey, which were much higher for faculty at nearly 70% than for students at 17.5%. He reported on the results and on the Committee's recommendations, which should help inform the school's reopening plan. Major findings include that there was high satisfaction from both students and faculty with online teaching this past year and, overall, with the adjustment to remote work. Students did report some difficulty with the online delivery of student services (such as use of the library, and writing and quantitative tutoring), and this is an area that could be improved. In summary, the transition to online was a success—the transition happened effectively and quickly and without compromising the quality of instruction and most services. Discussion followed.

Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs' Report

Ashish Joshi, Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs

Ashish reported on the results of the faculty/staff survey, including research staff, conducted by his office, which was just completed. The overall response rate was 50%. Key findings include: a greater percentage of faculty versus staff reported that in person classes and activities are important this fall; a significant

percentage of staff wanted flexible work arrangements with most faculty and staff indicating that 2-3 days on campus would be ideal; most agreed that high vaccination rates, good safety practices, and a low COVID transmission rate were necessary to return to campus in the fall; and most faculty and staff were willing to disclose their vaccination status. Faculty also indicated a higher percentage of vaccination rates than staff. Discussion followed.

Senior Associate Dean for Administration's Report

Susan Klitzman, Senior Associate Dean for Administration

Susan reported on SPH's FY21 financial plan. She said that CUNY has a hybrid budget model and SPH is required to submit a budget plan every year, which is developed in consultation with elected faculty and student representatives. Tuition revenue targets are set each year as part of this process. Colleges then receive an initial budget allocation. She presented a typical budget process and timeline, noting that this year the process was delayed due to NYS budget delays that happened because of the economic uncertainties created by the COVID-19 shutdowns and loss of revenue for NYS.

Associate Dean for Research's Report

Michele Kiely, Associate Dean for Research, SPaR

Michele noted that summer salaries for faculty will require VRB approval. In other business news, NIH bio submissions are delayed. In response to the Council's request for a summary of the substance of faculty research grants, Michele presented a report based on the information she collected from faculty. Summarizing the results, which focus mainly on funded research, Michele noted that the research areas are very diverse and broad and include research on COVID, HIV, Food, Drug Use, and many other health issues. She also presented data on the populations studied by category, ethnicity, etc. Discussion followed. The Council noted that similar information on faculty publications would be useful to help promote collaborative activity and for identifying sources of funding.

Other Business

Spring Cooper, Associate Professor in the CHASS Department, presented a PowerPoint on "Anti-Racist Pedagogy Principles." A group of CHASS faculty has been meeting this past year on this subject. She described what the course content should include and how a course might be conducted to promote anti-racist teaching. The overall principles of anti-racist pedagogy include: preparing for and welcoming diversity; meeting students where they are; diversifying course content; engaging affected and disembodied dimensions of learning; building a learning community; and peer-to-peer learning. She also reviewed how some of these principles could be applied in the classroom and best practices for the development of course syllabi. Discussion followed. The Council thanked Spring for her informative and useful report and requested access to the presentation. Spring noted that she would make it available on the Council's SharePoint site.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Glen adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doris Suarez