Draft #2 Receives Feedback

Between November 11, 2013 and January 10, 2014 the Core Accreditation Team made available on-line the first draft of the Self-Study Report for accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). More than 175 pieces of feedback were received. Following incorporation of the feedback a second draft was placed online on February 17, 2014 for a one month review. Again an online survey inviting feedback was appended to each of the 29 sections. Over 140 pieces of feedback were received following this second review. “We’ve never done anything like this before, so I was thrilled with the level of interest demonstrated by the input the first draft received: I am frankly shocked that the second draft received so much feedback—the interest by our community is amazing!” said Dr. Michael Reece, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

In addition to email and survey input, two groups significant to the success of the school held special meetings to discuss their feedback on the document. The Student Government (SG) met with the Core Accreditation Team on Sunday, February 23, 2014 to learn about the accreditation process and to discuss their participation in the review. A second meeting with the SG took place on March 11, 2014 and 20 pieces of input were received.

In mid-May the third and final online draft of the self-study will be available for review and feedback. Faculty, staff, students and community members continue to be encouraged to submit their feedback online or to members of the Core Accreditation Team by writing to evsgold@indiana.edu.

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The Core Accreditation Team met with the Accreditation Steering Committee on March 7, 2014 to receive their responses to the draft. On March 24, 2014 a sub-committee of the Public Health Community Advisory Board (CAB) also met with the Core Accreditation Team to submit their feedback. A follow up meeting with the full CAB to receive additional input will take place on April 4, 2014.

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One of the most important results of the self-study process has been our recognition of the need for increased inclusion in the school’s governance structures. In addition to the creation of 11 standing committees of the Faculty Academic Council with student and staff representatives, a school-wide Student Government (SG) was established in the fall of 2013. Membership is comprised of degree-seeking students representing each of the departments within the SPH-B.

According to its mission, “The purpose of the School of Public Health-Bloomington Student Government (SPH-B SG) is to represent the SPH-B student body, advocate for students’ academic interests, and present academic and professional opportunities for students within the SPH-B and the larger Indiana University community. The SPH-B SG seeks to facilitate cohesion among the students, faculty, administration, and departments within the school. In addition, the SPH-B SG hopes to foster peer mentorship and act as an entity through which students can collaborate and create an active community within the SPH-B. The SPH-B SG seeks to be a liaison between faculty, staff, and students.”

We are fortunate to be served so well by these SPH-B students:

- Ren-Jay Shei, M.S. - President, Ph.D. in Human Performance, Department of Kinesiology
- Joseph Dempsey, B.S. - Vice President, MPH in Environmental Health, Department of Environmental Health
- Benjamin Rush, B.S. - Vice President, MPH in Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Simon Abu-Aita - Secretary, B.S. in Exercise Science, Department of Kinesiology
- Qianqian Meng, B.S. - Treasurer, M.S. in Recreation, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies

A special note of thanks for their leadership goes to Drs. Maresa Murray and Rasul Mowatt who serve as the advisors to this important organization.

Front Row (L-R): Tilicia Mayo, Meaghan Kennedy
Back Row (L-R): Olivia Severyn, Laura Alexeichick, Rickie Lee Marker-Hoffman, Sarah Thomas, Ren-Jay Shei