



PHO
Department of Public Health
East Carolina University
Lakeside Annex 7
Greenville, NC 27834-2803

Public Health Graduate Student Organization
Monday January 27, 2014
Allied Health Sciences Building, Room 1345, 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Saba meeting – we’re trying it again!
 - a. <https://de207.sabameeting.com:443/GP/main/000000ed41f8000001437ad0b2bb94a2> Please let us know if this worked for you and give us some feedback about how well it came through!
3. Discussion of online classes – Dr. Novick. There have been some concerns from students about the overwhelming amount of online courses, and the lack of options for face-to-face sections. Dr. Novick’s response was that most of the program’s online courses are coupled with a face-to-face course and the majority of online courses were created to accommodate the high amount of students who are distance educated. There are also higher student evaluation ratings across the board for online courses, therefore if we are to expect any change to occur, high levels of student feedback is necessary to bring to the faculty’s attention. Dr. Novick presented the students with questions for thought: Is it online vs. face to face-to-face, or is it the quality of the respective courses? He has urged the student body to “Put it in writing,” which will give the concerns more value when presented to the faculty and staff. The students need to give feedback!!! More student concerns were brought to the table including concerns that due to different teaching styles and techniques (research-focused vs teaching-focused) the quality of the online lectures is varying greatly and is often very hard to follow. Students have concerns that often in online classes some course material is haphazardly compiled and students are expected to meander their way through the material without instruction or guidance and supplemental teachings to cement their learning experience in the lectures. There was a consensus that these different teaching styles should match different learning styles; however, it was agreed that the complaints did come down to a certain level of individual preference. A student asked if there is training for faculty on effective online teaching. Some students expressed that the organization of the blackboard sites needs to be made more navigation-friendly, and an example was the new blackboard site used in Health Informatics. This new blackboard site is easy to navigate and makes assignments and course material easily accessible and understandable for each week of lecture. It was also mentioned that the excitement and enthusiasm of professors for the material (particularly teaching the material) affects the attitudes and learning experience of the class. Another student’s concern was that face-to-face class options should be available for subject matters, such as Environmental Health, that would benefit from the hands on classes in order to better connect with the course content. Simultaneous online and on campus tuition billing was

discussed as well and Dr. Novick told the students that if this has been an issue for them, they should contact Kelly Bass at basske@ecu.edu. Dr. Novick discussed students sharing their opinions to be combined in the form of a possible survey for online vs. face-to-face courses with Chelsea Stowe so that she may be able to create one with closed and open-ended questions.

4. Update on NC Legal Aid Navigator Volunteers
 - a. How are modules going? Progress is going slow, but we are still looking to coordinate with Eastern AHEC. If you are interested please email pho.ecu.edu about enrolling to become a navigator and begin the modules. The idea is to possibly continue after this academic year.
 - b. Keep talking about it – get the word out!
5. Minority Health Conference-Up to 25 students will be funded to go to the conference. Please email pho@ecu.edu if you are interested in attending **BEFORE 5PM January 28, 2014 (TOMORROW)**.
6. New Student Buddy System- “Mentor” program. Do you think that it would be helpful? The idea is to have an “upperclassman” who can help Spring first-semester students navigate through the program, curriculum, etc and help students wherever possible.
7. Graduation: Friday, May 9th at 2pm in ECHI
 - a. Send Lauren Needell your photos and song suggestions for slideshow. Pictures from PHO events and maybe individual or group shots of MPH students from other social gatherings.
8. 2014-2015 PHO Exec Elections: **February 24th**
 - a. Send nominations to PHO@ecu.edu – self and friend nominations may be sent prior to the meeting on February 24th!
 - b. Jamie will send out an email about it.
9. Relay for Life – Lana. Sign up for the PHO team! Entry fee is only \$10. It is held on April 11 starting at 6pm. Please sign up and/or donate ASAP! Email ideas for tv show theme at nasrallah08@students.ecu.edu, or 919-413-9786.
10. Thoughts on an end-of-year social event? Social gathering to be held at the end of the semester! Online poll forthcoming to determine best date.
11. Announcements/Other
 - a. Pay your Spring 2014 dues if you haven’t already!
 - b. Any want/need/interest in t-shirts for this spring? Email PHO if interested
 - c. Please sign the card going around
12. National public health week!!!- April 7-13. Themes include:
 - **Be healthy from the start.** From maternal Health and school nutrition to emergency preparedness, public health starts at home.

- **Don't panic.** Disaster Preparedness starts with community-wide commitment and action.
- **Get out ahead.** Prevention is now a nationwide priority. Let us show you where you fit in.
- **Eat well.** The system that keeps our nation's food safe and healthy is complex.
- **Be the healthiest nation in one generation.** Best practices for community health come from around the globe.

Please be thinking of themes for possible programs that will satisfy these themes, and email pho@ecu.edu . Try to email with suggestions prior to the meeting on February 24th, 2014!

13. Adjournment