

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: Graduate Council

DATE: Jan 7, 2023

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Graduate Council met on Dec 16, 2022 to consider and approve the following. All items were approved unanimously and one item needs approval from Faculty Senate.

1. A new Graduate Minor in Global Health in the College of Public Health. “The expansion of a Global Health program which includes additional trainings to improve public health is aligned with the MEZCOPH mission in service learning and to the 2019 Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation criteria associated with cultural contexts in which public health professionals work.” “Students completing this minor will be equipped to address the socioeconomic, behavioral, biological, environmental and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities”.
2. A new asynchronous online Master of Arts in Bioethics in COM Phx Bioethics and Medical Humanism department. “The proposed program is dedicated to exploring how ethical issues underlie the decisions that shape our minds, lives, and society as we move through bedside medical decisions, the difficult decisions related to diversity, equity, inclusion, the rights of people, and everyday decisions that we make in our lives.” **As a brand new major, this needs approval of the Faculty Senate.**
3. Name change of “Division of Public Health Practice and Translational Research” of Public Health Phoenix Campus to “**Department** of Public Health Practice, **Policy**, and Translational Research” due to the merger of Community Environment and Policy concentration into the unit. The last valid academic term under the old name will be fall semester 2022 and the first term for the new name will be effective July/summer 2023.

### Discussion items:

1. Dean Andrew Carnie answered the question asked by Faculty Senate on background checking in the graduate admission process.
  - a. First of all, there is not legal concerns, since graduate student background checking process is exactly the same as the undergraduate student background checking process, which has been established for a long time.
  - b. Language used to communicate with perspective students on background checking (exclusively self-reporting unless students are offered GT/RA positions, for the latter a full background check for regular employees will be triggered) is carefully crafted by GC Associate Dean and a few GC members so perspective students are not discouraged from completing the admission process.
  - c. Information collected on past criminal records are reviewed by the same team for the undergraduate admission that included DEI and campus policy. Decisions made are context dependent, e.g., students applying for Education degrees cannot have a children abuse history, but may be ok with other misdemeanors. Recommendations may be admission with constraints, such as admittable only to online programs, can't not live on campus or come to campus, etc.

- d. Background information are not shared with the admitting departments.

GOALS:

Graduate Council meets again on Jan 20, 2023 to consider additional program proposals.