

Global Health Council (GHC) Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2015

3:30 PM

UF International Center

Attendees: Jocelyn Widmer, Sarah McKune, Christine Ikponmwonba, Glenn Morris, Sven Norman, Abe Goldman, James Grigg, Brian Reichow, Greg Glass, Sonyi, Bahara, Mike Perry

Minutes

Agenda Item: Big Picture Update on GHC and GHCC

Presenter: Dr. McKune

Discussion: Dr. McKune gave a preview on the transaction with the provost on moving GHC forward and how we are currently waiting to see the response from President Fuchs. The updates on GHCC were also addressed. The date set for GHCC is the 23rd of January 2016 and about 40 people have already signed up.

Conclusion: GHC is still waiting on the response from President Fuchs. The GHCC planning is moving with full speed.

Agenda Item: Symposium

Presenter: Dr. McKune

Discussion: Dr. McKune pushed for a follow up discussion on last meeting on topic ideas and keynote speakers for the upcoming symposium. She highlighted that GHC has now settled on “Megacities” as the topic and has also reserved a venue at the UF Women’s Club (Close to Griffin Stadium). However, we (GHC), still need nominations for guest speakers and we currently have a budget to do plan the symposium in a really nice high way. Dr. McKune addressed an idea from last meeting which was about having a debate on the topic of megacities however not straying from the general theme “innovations in Global Health”.

There was a wide variety of responses and some of the responses included:

- Inviting people from the local community like Paul Psychas who does research on malaria
- Inviting someone from the big global health group at Hopkins
- Involving people in demography that will discuss how low urban areas drive trends of diseases thus shifting the focus from infectious diseases to more chronic diseases caused by things like air pollution.
- Bringing TED talks speakers; people like Geoffrey West, Robert Muggah, Alex Stephan etc that will address ways in which megacities can move towards resilience.
- Bring in someone like Leo Frank to talk on best practices (using Jakarta as an example)

- Focusing on things that are still a challenge to growing cities like water quality, air quality infectious diseases etc.
- Having a series of symposium dealing with the shifts / dynamic changes occurring as we shift to megacities. This will include a series of panels that will talk on the shifts in diseases and innovation approaches and possibly an extra session in environmental health, water sanitation (adequate infrastructure). This will encompass the whole shift in spectrum from infectious diseases to chronic diseases to psychological implications to personal safety etc.
- Using the AAPH megacities conference as a reference to gain one or to ideas on topic areas and also select authors from there as possible speakers for our own event. Some of the topics discussed at the conference were slums, infectious diseases, displacement of HIV, climate change (Acute and chronic shocks to the system), etc.

Conclusion: Most of the suggestions leaned to the idea of having about 3-4 topics set from all the suggestions raised and then bringing people in those areas to speak.
