ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH COUNCIL

FOR

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

Presented at the
772nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
November 16, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Tobias Baskin, Biology, Chair
Ann Becker, UHS, PSU
Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson, Public Health
John Blihar, Student Affairs
Mary Ellen Burke, Nursing
Lauren Coakley, Undergraduate student
George Corey, University Health Services
Zander Crowley, Staff
Katherine Dixon-Gordon, Psychology
Diane Fedorchak, Center for Health Promotion
Linda Fortin, USA
Erika Hamilton, Microbiology
Jessica Horoschak, Undergraduate student
Barbara Hastings, USA/MTA
Sally Ives, PSU
Brian Kane, Ecology and Conservation
Robert Kearns, Undergraduate student
Ellen Lutz, Library
Andy Mangels, Administration and Finance
David Morin, Graduate student
Sophia Muschell, Graduate student
MJ Peterson, Faculty Senate
Don Robinson, Environmental Health & Safety
Harry Rockland-Miller, Center for Counseling and Psychological Health
Christine Rogers, EHS, PSU
Deborah Rosenbloom, Nursing
Wilmore Webley, Microbiology
Report:

In 2016 – 2017, Health Council met 7 times. Tobias Baskin served as Chair for the academic year. During the academic year, Health Council discussed various issues related to campus health and safety, including:

- revision of the Faculty Senate Bylaws concerning the Health Council membership
- the implementation, oversight, and enforcement of the campus tobacco policy
- University investment and divestment in tobacco companies
- recreational marijuana use on campus
- safety in machine shops and laboratories
- pedestrian safety on campus
- issues relating to bicycles and bicyclists on campus
- proper disposal of hazardous waste materials
- a possible new bus stop in front of UHS
- the status of buildings housing UHS, CCPH, and CHP
- the availability of health resources on campus
- the establishment of a campus “Green Commute Day”
- the overall mission of Health Council

The Health Council recommended changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws to better reflect the current healthcare organization on campus in the Health Council membership. The changes were adopted by the Faculty Senate and the Bylaws now call for *ex officio* membership from the Executive Director of University Health Services, the Director of the Center for Health Promotion, and the Director of the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health.

Ezra Small (Sustainability Manager with Physical Plant) addressed Council about sustainability in general and the idea of a “Leave your Car at Home Day”. Thanks to encouragement from Council and participation during the academic year in planning by several of its members, the 2017 Earth Day festivities included a Green Commute Day. Members of the campus community were urged to walk, cycle, bus, or carpool. Those who did so were greeted at the Earth Day tent with breakfast and information about ways to get to campus other than a single occupancy vehicle. For this inaugural event, about 50 people participated. While a small start, Green Commute Day will become a regular part of Earth Day and participation is expected to grow.

Dr. George Corey (Executive Director of UHS) provided a thorough report of UHS operations, reviewing operational changes, staffing, patient management, electronic records, and the challenges of operating in suboptimal space.

Don Robinson (Director EHS) provided a thorough report on EHS. Robinson’s report was historical in outlook, recounting growth and development of EHS from a relatively small operation to its status now as a large, complex, and indispensible part of campus. Among other services, he highlighted the success of the student run Emergency Medical Service.

Diane Fedorchak (Interim Director of Center for Health Promotion) led a discussion about issues relating to the recent ballot initiative that will legalize recreational marijuana. Discussion focused on the increased potency of today’s product, on the disparate responses among individuals, privacy rights, medicinal use, and the best way of encouraging appropriate student behavior. Campus members are working to address this issue and craft a reasonable response and specific policy recommendations.

Harry Rockland-Miller (Center for Counseling and Psychological Health, CCPH) gave a report on the history and current status of CCPH. Rockland-Miller described the growth over the past 20 years of his unit both in terms of the numbers of patients treated and the visibility of mental health issues on campus. UMass is a leader in providing these kinds of services on campus and our model has been praised and replicated. Discussion focused on future trends, availability of resources, helping students access services even if they are not currently seeking such services, and the problem of space for the center.
Ann Becker (Public Health Nurse) gave an update on the tobacco free campus policy and led a discussion about how to improve implementation of the policy. At its roll out, the policy led to a noticeable reduction in tobacco use on campus. However, after several years these gains appear to be eroding. It was decided to reconstitute the original Tobacco Free Campus Committee, and transitioning its mandate from it from establishing to maintaining the policy. Health Council recommended that the reconstituted Committee should run at the highest administrative level possible and that it have access to funds needed to support its work. A resolution calling for this action was drafted by Council members, approved unanimously by Council, and forwarded to the Chancellor.

For the coming year, Council will continue to monitor the work of the Tobacco Free Campus Committee. In addition, we will consider health care space, and issues related recreational marijuana and opioid abuse. We will develop initiatives to involve more members of the community in promoting health and safety on campus.

Respectfully submitted.

Tobias Baskin