

MPA Monthly Meeting 12.12.19

Present: Mike, Anna, Puanani, Amy, Meghan, Yoichiro, Cali, Lucky, Cheryl, Doreen and Dhara (note taker). Jon Davies from United Faculty of Evergreen, joined for second half of meeting.

Introduction and Announcements:

- Meghan Doughty would like to work with anyone interested on proposing a piece to Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics, which she has been invited to submit her work to.
- Cali's December 11 talk at Lord Mansion, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. was very successful and photos will be going out about the event on our blog.
- MPA Staff have been updating our list of Who Does What and updated list was emailed around today.

Director Updates:

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Substantive Change Policy

(Mike was asked two questions at the last meeting that he found answers to. The questions and answers appear below)

1. Question: Do we need to have MPA program changes approved through NWCCU owing to its Substantive Change Policy?

Short answer is no; it is unlikely any changes we make in the program that we are considering would have the sort of effect that would fall under NWCCU's substantive change policy. The changes of concern under this policy are ones that would affect the College's financial viability, i.e. its capacity to "continue to meet the Commission standards." Larry Geri has asked for updates on the changes we are considering though, so if something were to rise to that level he would be able to catch it.

Implementation of Curricular Changes

2. Question: What timeline is needed in order to implement changes to the MPA program so that students are treated equitably?

Answer: This depends on the nature of the change. In general, changes that represent a change to what we promise to or require of students cannot go into effect until the second academic year following the one in which they are adopted. As a rule of thumb, changes to curriculum that would be reflected in marketing materials (i.e. degree requirements, concentration requirements) need one and a half to two years to go into effect. For instance, changes adopted this year (19-20) would go into effect for the 21-22 academic year. This is because we are in the process of recruiting and scheduling for the next academic year (20-21) right now. Changes that do not directly change a commitment to or requirement of students can be implemented as we wish. These include changes such as faculty workload, instructional hours, and specific elective course offerings.

Hyogo Prefecture Discussions

Program with Hyogo Prefecture appears to be on hold for the upcoming year. Would like ideas on what the MPA program can ask in exchange for accepting a Hyogo student. Perhaps one of our students could do a capstone there?

Director Updates (con't):

Alumni Relations

Mike met with Abby Kelso

- a) Suggested an alumni-student mixer tied to Return to Evergreen next year. Possibly an event that would have an academic component (lecture, seminar)
- b) To engage Tribal Governance (TG) alums, she suggested an annual event attached to one of the TG core or concentration courses (extended potluck?)
- c) Tacoma: Might consider an alumni event with alums in Tacoma and Pierce County for a mixer with students.
- d) Capstone projects: Might be able to enlist alumni to help assess capstone projects (could divide projects into panels of about 2 hours and invite alumni to participate in evaluating quality of work).

Assistant Director Updates:

Anna asks that Faculty send her their merit award ratings as soon as possible. Registration opened on Monday. Applications are matching numbers for this time last year. She met with Marketing to promote our Feb 3rd priority deadline and they are funding and putting forth some excellent marketing for this. She attended a Latino Leadership network meeting on Tuesday. Cali offered to go with her next time, as a Latina representative of MPA. Student Ambassadors are posting photos of our events on Instagram. They're being very helpful and are even attending info sessions with her.

Puanani found some historical documents regarding curriculum changes that she will share at the next meeting. She and Mike will be visiting Northwest Indian College and Western Washington University in January. They are meeting with some key staff and recruits there. Puanani had a Student Ambassador, a Yakima Nation member at the Academic Fair with her last week.

Academic Advising:

Anna and Puanani do advising for some of our students however students have been turning to them for academic and professional advice which fall outside of their purview. How should we give students information on where they should go for what?

Considerations:

- 1) The MPA program has had a formalized advising system in the past, where each student was assigned to a particular faculty advisor.
- 2) In recent years the program has transitioned to a system in which students receive academic advising through their MPA core courses. Expectations for the core course in the upcoming quarter are discussed at the end of the preceding quarter. And faculty notify students that they may schedule face-to-face meetings individually with faculty as needed.
- 3) Students may be less familiar with which faculty have expertise in which areas for purposes of career advice and advice on ILCs and internships.

Decision: To have a list on our website of who specializes in what and to also give this to registration and records. Dhara to coordinate.

Faculty Workload and Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Background

The collective bargaining agreement that the United Faculty of Evergreen has with the College indicates that graduate faculty should teach a minimum of 8 credit hours per quarter. College administration has indicated it expects MPA faculty to teach 10 credit hours per quarter, leaving open the question of whether MPA faculty are in a position to teach fewer than 10 hours. Jon Davies from the UFE discussed the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and its implications for MPA faculty workload.

Considerations for AY 2020-2021 curriculum

- 1) A proposal was developed and circulated to MPA faculty for an AY 2020-2021 curriculum with 28 hour faculty teaching load over the year. Proposal offered as a pilot to evaluate possible impact of a 28 hour load on enrollment.
- 2) Proposal provides a way for permanent faculty to offer a 2-credit hour elective (which have been particularly popular with students) during the academic year. Hope is to increase exposure of MPA students to permanent MPA faculty in electives and not just core.
- 3) Possible impact on the range of elective offerings. Proposal reduces elective offerings by about 1 four-hour elective each quarter in order to stay within the MPA program's faculty line.

Decision

A motion was made and seconded that the MPA faculty adopt the 28 credit model for the 2020-2021 academic year. A friendly amendment is made that faculty wishing to teach a 30 hour load may continue to do so.

Motion passes with 5 ayes, 1 nay, and 3 abstentions.

Next MPA Monthly Meeting is Tuesday Jan. 14th at 1:00 pm in LAB I 3064
"Sharing Insights" Meeting (facilitated by Amy) begins at 11:30 am in Lab I 3064