

MPA Monthly Meeting 04.23.20

Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Mike Crow, Amy Gould, Doreen Swetkis, Cali Ellis, Lucky Anguelov, Meghan Doughty, Puanani Nihoa, Marcia Zitzelman and Dhara Katz (note taker).

Announcements:

- a. Summer courses
 - I. Syllabi for Summer Quarter due to Dhara on Monday, June 1st
 - II. Announcement about format for summer courses offered remotely expected this week
- b. Alumni newsletter: pushed back to be sent out end of May owing to COVID-19. Submit materials on items you would like us to consider for inclusion to Dhara.
- c. Internships: Going forward into summer and fall, internship contracts will require a COVID-19 liability waiver, both from student and from worksite. Not on the electronic checklist, so needs to be monitored manually by faculty and student.

MPA Director Updates:

- a. Institutional Review Board: Mike joined the committee for this, which includes Karen Gaul, Amadou Ba, and Sue Feldman. They are in the process of investigating IRB processes for student research at other institutions.
- b. Policy on Combined Undergraduate/Graduate programs: Has been adopted by the Evergreen Faculty. Provides one framework under which we can offer an early entry program if we wish.
- c. UW Tacoma: Met with Katie Baird, faculty in UW Tacoma's Politics, Philosophy, and Economics BA program. Expressed interest in a collaborative relationship between their program and our Tacoma MPA program, perhaps an early entry program or a joint understanding on a curriculum students should pursue to be admitted to our MPA (i.e. to be a feeder program). Have a go ahead from Jen and Larry to begin some preliminary research into existing models for these sorts of relationships. Some Faculty recommended that Mike look into PLE possibilities to combine with this effort.
- d. Legislative Assistant program: Have not yet moved forward owing to Covid-19. Have a request to Jeremy Mohn to investigate to see if a remote learning option might be of interest
- f. Hyogo Prefectural agreement: A final agreement has been reached between Evergreen and the Hyogo Prefectural government. Hyogo will nominate an employee every other year for the MPA program. The candidate needs to meet our admissions criterion, including a minimum TOEFL of 79. An applicant, Kusano Kaoru, has been admitted for Fall 2020 under this program.

- g. Concentration transcriptability: Original meeting was March 16th, which happened just as we transitioned to online meetings. Covid-19 has pushed it off the agenda for now, but I plan to ask for a new meeting in the near future. May be tied to Big Bets.
- h. Budget: No word on budget situation, but all indications are it will be a difficult year, especially if covid-19 affects the college's budget appropriation. Seem to be expecting a 10% cut, but this will not be across the board.
- i. Meghan and Mike submitted the paperwork for the MPA summer institute. But we have received no word yet on whether or how summer institutes will go forward next year.
- j. Graduate Program Meeting: We had some discussion about whether ILC due dates each quarter should align across the graduate programs. Records and Registration has been concerned that waiting until the end of Week 1 May complicate financial aid for some students, and they recommend an earlier deadline. Would like to confer with other grad directors to see if we can set a common date.

MPA AD Updates:

AD's are working on admission and sponsorship application reviews. Doreen offered to assist in reviewing them.

Puanani presented Admissions Numbers (Amy requested these get sent to MPA in email)

- Admitted 44 students in the first two rounds (February 2nd and March 9th)
- Third round deadline is April 27th. Have about 20 applicants in that round
- Plan to continue to accept applications after April 27th

Program Assistant Update:

Dhara presented her ideas for the Alumni Newsletter that will go out at the end of May and got input ideas from Faculty

Hooding Ceremony Discussion:

The College has announced plans for a virtual graduation ceremony in lieu of an in-person ceremony in June. The MPA program needs to develop a plan for our own ceremony.

- Last year a student created an anonymous regalia donation fund
- We will ask students to donate their regalia to students next year
- We need 2-3 student speakers identified by students by May 13th
- Evergreen Commencement will have a TG MPA Student speaker this year
- We need to provide Instructions about how to hood (in the past, 2nd year core faculty have given instructions in class).
- If a student can't participate due to internet issues, they can walk in spring 2021
- We'll look at legal issues of recording the ceremony and then let students know
- MPA virtual ceremony will be 10am June 12th
- Individual graduate names will be called
- A stay-at-home family member may hood the student, or the student may choose to hood themselves.

- Spring 2021 – We will have a reception for 2020 graduates, the night before Commencement and we will ask them to come in their regalia
- MPA will offer graduate 2020 MPA T-shirt as a Gift

Remote Instruction Check-In:

Our sudden shift to remote instruction has introduced new challenges in teaching this quarter.

- College has funds for webcams if students don't have them (students can apply for a small grant just for that. Information at this link:
<https://www.evergreen.edu/financialaid/emergency-resources>)
- Lucky will look into peripherals to see if they are available to students
- Chromebooks are also available for borrowing through the library
- It has been a good experiment of online teaching
- Connect with Bridget Irish or Meredith if you have accessibility issues-they're great!
- Capstone has been high functioning, using breakout rooms very successfully, Google poll at the end of every class with regards to tech issues and they're acting quickly on issues
- Mike requested that Faculty compile student user comments and responses at end of quarter

Next MPA Monthly Meeting: May 28th, Thursday 1:00 pm-2:30 pm via Zoom