**MPA Program Meeting Agenda**

**February 27, 2020**

**1:00 -2:30 p.m.**

**Lab I 3033**

**1) Announcements (5 minutes)**

**2) MPA Staff Updates (15 minutes)**

**3) Recruitment and Enrollment for AY 2020-2021 (20 minutes)**

Background: Anna and Puanani will provide an update on recruiting for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please come prepared with ideas on how to support outreach and recruitment to prospective students.

**4) Human Subjects Review process (25 minutes)**

Background: The human subjects review process for course, capstone, and ILC projects has recently altered (see outline of concerns courtesy of Amy Gould below). Mike is seeking guidance on what sort of review process we would like to see for MPA student projects and how to assure students hold to standards for ethical research in capstone projects. Please come prepared with concerns or questions about HSR for MPA student projects and with thoughts about what we should ask from administration about HSR review.

Obstacles concerning HSR/IRB reviews for student projects in ATPS and Capstone (Amy Gould):

1) Due to staffing changes/desk responsibilities in the Deanery, there is not a functioning IRB at this time. Instead, Karen Gaul and 2 readers might provide "feedback" on applications, but the formal review process is dysfunctional/non-existent at this time. Especially for research deemed "exempt"<<https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.evergreen.edu%2Fhumansubjectsreview%2Fhsrdefined&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ccrawm%40evergreen.edu%7C960d6b82302a48e0496e08d7a98fe253%7C22adcff7c06f49a68f2050711c40ddaa%7C0%7C0%7C637164307766742209&amp;sdata=q4fY0%2FwqP7Kpu%2Fiw5i%2BF1RkBPNbohECDQnCS3az26ZE%3D&amp;reserved=0>>, students do not need to submit an HSR and faculty are encouraged to provide ethics oversight to student projects via classroom activities/assignments. We usually always include the HSR as part of our deliverables in ATPS and Capstone with submission to the Deans for review. However, it seems this is no longer an option.

2) This is not only due to staff changes at TESC. It is mainly due to changes in federal law.

Some changes to the federal Common Rule as of Feb. 2016:

\* “harmonization”= one IRB for all federal agencies,

\* online review process,

\* more exemptions for ‘low risk’ studies,

\* clearer informed consent agreements that must include future uses of bio specimens

The main concern is with “more” exemptions for “low risk” studies. The Feds already deem studies approved by a Department or Agency head for “public benefit” as exempt. Also, Feds deem anything not “generalizable” as “not research”, low risk, and therefore exempt. But just because a study isn’t “generalizable” doesn’t mean it can’t do harm. Part of their definition for "generalizable" includes statically generalizable. Meaning, a random sample with interval/ratio level data to run inferential statistics. Very few of our students do this due to the nature of the research questions they are asking and the purposeful/targeted/non-random sample populations they are researching. Therefore, by default most of our student projects are "exempt" and do not need to go through the HSR process. In the past, we had staff in charge of our HSR process at TESC who still wanted to review all applications to ensure quality research (exempt or not; even after the law changed in 2016). However, now with skeleton crews on staff, this is not a viable option.

**5) Policy on Combined Undergraduate/Graduate Degrees (20 minutes)**

Background: The Master in Teaching program is proposing a joint undergraduate/graduate degree program (see draft proposal below). The proposal creates a template that the MPA and MES programs could use in order to develop joint degree proposals of their own. The team drafting the proposal is requesting feedback from graduate program faculty on how well the proposed template would serve a potential joint undergraduate/graduate degree program for MPA and MES.

**6) Meeting wrap-up (5 minutes)**

**New Academic Programing Model:** Proposal for Sequential Combined Undergraduate/Graduate Degrees

**PROPOSAL**  
Graduate programs can create a sequential combined undergraduate/graduate degree program according to the following guidelines. Proposals for such degree programs must be submitted and approved by the Provost Office for each degree combination.

**INTENT & PROCESS FOR APPROVAL**  
The intent of the undergraduate/graduate degree program is to allow undergraduate students at The Evergreen State College an opportunity for seamless transition from undergraduate to graduate education at the College. The undergraduate/graduate degree allows students ready to identify and plan their graduate course of study as an undergraduate, in consultation with a corresponding graduate program that offers an undergraduate/graduate degree program.

As a part of an approved undergraduate/graduate degree program, each graduate program may allow a defined amount of graduate-level coursework that is completed as an undergraduate to count toward a graduate degree, as detailed in the graduate studies standards below:

**ADMISSIONS**  
Each graduate program within the Graduate Studies at Evergreen has the option for creating a sequential combined undergraduate/graduate degree program admissions process. Admission will occur no earlier than when a student has junior standing. The specific timeline and undergraduate/graduate admissions criteria will be outlined by the specific graduate program to which the student is applying. Applications to the undergraduate/graduate degree program will be open to all students meeting the published undergraduate/graduate degree program admissions criteria. The qualifications for admissions of the undergraduate/graduate degree program must assure that students have appropriate background to successfully complete the program.

The student is responsible for applying to the graduate program and meeting the minimum admissions requirement for the program before being allowed to enroll as a graduate student.

The graduate program may design different admissions criteria to the graduate program for the combined undergraduate/graduate degree students.

No more than one year may elapse between undergraduate degree completion and enrolling in the graduate program. The graduate program may set a policy with a shorter limit. The program director may choose to waive this requirement on a case by case basis.

**ENROLLMENT**  
Students will NOT be registered simultaneously as both undergraduate and graduate student. Until the undergraduate degree is awarded, students are considered undergraduate with regard to all policy and tuition considerations.

Undergraduate degree and credit requirements must be fully satisfied, at which point the bachelor’s degree will be awarded and the student will officially enter the graduate program. The graduate program will create clear set of minimum requirements for combined undergraduate/graduate continuation.

**CREDIT APPLIED TOWARD THE GRADUATE DEGREE**The graduate program will define a policy regarding the amount and type of previously approved upper division undergraduate level and graduate-level coursework taken as an undergraduate that can be applied toward the graduate degree, with a maximum of up to 25% of the total credits for the program allowed. These credits must be earned after admission to the combined undergraduate/graduate combined degree program and must fulfill the specified graduate degree requirements. The graduate director may choose to accept qualifying credits earned as an undergraduate prior to admission to the combined program on a case by case basis.

Any graduate level student teaching, independent research, capstone or Master’s Thesis, may not be taken before the student is enrolled as a graduate student.

**TIME LIMITS**Students must comply with the regular time limits for completion of their graduate degree, beginning from their time of entry to the graduate program.   
  
  
**PROGRAM ENTRANCE**Upon the student’s acceptance to the undergraduate/graduate combined degree program, the specific graduate program is responsible for providing coordinated advising and creating clear documentation about the plan of study. Both the student and the program must sign off on a written plan, to be included in the student’s record (kept on file by the program).