Synopsis from Quarterly MPA Check-In meeting

October 31, 2019

Jen Drake, Larry Geri, David McAvity, and Michael Craw

1)Jen and the campus leadership team are in the process of identifying strategic curricular initiatives that can increase student enrollment. They are hoping to have some ideas to run with by the end of the fall quarter and so we have been asked to consider suggestions or opportunities for additional programs related to the MPA program. I will plan to ask for your input on this at our next faculty meeting, but in the meantime if you have ideas for new or expanded programs, let me know. I raised the possibility of a graduate certificate program in nonprofit management as perhaps worth further study. I made clear that we are not in a position to take in a new cohort in Tacoma for Fall 2020 and my sense is that this is off the table, but I expressed our interest in continuing to plan for a Fall 2021 cohort in Tacoma and our openness to consider annualizing the Tacoma MPA program if that seems warranted.

2) Mike raised a plan to take the MPA faculty workload from 30 hours next year (10 hours/quarter) to 26 hours in order to better achieve parity with the MES program. This was rejected and I was told to schedule permanent faculty for 10 hours each quarter in the upcoming year. The underlying concern here is budgetary: the College is not willing to commit to a lower faculty workload while enrollment remains a concern. I recommend that we continue to plan to get clarity on faculty workload in the next CBA. And I’ve suggested that we may be open to an instructional hour to credit hour ratio of 0.75 instructional hours per credit hour. The message I got here was that this may be worth considering, but a credit hour policy would ideally be consistent across the graduate programs and that more time would be needed to study adopting such a policy.

3) Mike was able to clarify that both Tyrus Smith and Wenhong Wen will be invited to be part of our core teaching team next year.