

## **Master of Public Administration (MPA) Fall Retreat**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Organic Farmhouse, The Evergreen State College

**Attendees:** Mike Crow, MPA Director; Doreen Swetkis, Faculty; Cheryl Simrell King, Faculty; Yoichiro Tsuzuki, Visiting Faculty; Meghan Doughty, Faculty; Eric Trevan, Faculty; Amy Gould, Faculty; Lucky Anguelov, Faculty; Cali Ellis, Faculty; Nihoa Puanani, MPA Assistant Director; Anna Rhoads, MPA Assistant Director; Dhara Katz (Note taker), Program Assistant.

**Meeting Objective:** Program Updates and Strategic Planning for the 2019-2020 Academic Year

### **Introductions**

Two new faculty and staff were introduced: Dhara Katz (new MPA program assistant) and Yoichiro Tsuzuki (visiting faculty from the University of Hyogo). Many of the MPA faculty taught online or in person this summer; they completed articles, essays or books for publication; and participated in community projects. The MPA staff are currently working on welcoming, orienting and readying the program for our incoming and continuing students. We are also continually recruiting for the upcoming open cohort.

### **Director Report – Mediation**

Curriculum change discussions could be improved through group facilitation and through assistance with the design of a productive process for this. It would also be helpful to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party manage this conversation since the MPA has a new Director. The 3<sup>rd</sup> party intake process was lengthy and many requested a copy of their intake summary (which has now been provided.)

### **Director Report – Added Course (2<sup>nd</sup>) Sections**

- Check your bias
- Education Policy
- Organizational Behavior

### **Director Report – Workflow and Faculty Workloads**

Please send large project requests or MPA staff criticisms to Mike as he would like those requests or comments to pass through him.

Currently 10 hours per quarter are required of the MPA faculty, however, many are interested in bringing this to the bargaining unit.

## **Director Report – Summer Institute**

Mike participated in the first ever Evergreen leadership institute, this summer. Of note he mentioned that our Undergraduate program is looking at adding more administrative layers and that Tribal leadership is trying to reconcile Native American students at Evergreen with getting students involved in reservations.

## **Director Report – Hanover Research**

Hanover is studying Undergraduate and Graduate programs at Evergreen. Please stay abreast of their findings in terms of aligning our curriculum changes with these. Additionally, because our collaborations in the past have had challenges with program level sustainability, volunteer engagement, and continued intuitional support, we are using Hanover to help us strategically choose one or two areas to put our funds towards, to increase enrollment.

## **Director Report – Data and Budget**

Mike showed statistical slides regarding the growth of MPA. ESD Employment factor analysis, fund raising, GIS funding, Certificate for a Tribal CPM program, a Portland State Tribal program were all mentioned as possible funding opportunities.

MPA PNAPP program (Olympia and Tacoma combined) had 114 applications and 80 new enrollments. Olympia program had 63 applicants this year and 44 enrolled (compared to 70 applications and 45 new enrollments in 2018) and Tacoma had 51 applications and 36 new enrollments.

MPA discretionary budget for the upcoming year is expected to be about \$19,000. Most is committed to NASPAA, recruitment expenses, and orientation and hooding expenses.

Director priorities for 2019-2020:

- 1) Relationship-building: network for recruiting and new recruiting events; obtain feedback on employer needs; lay groundwork to develop GAships; enhance visibility; lay groundwork for contract work for faculty; identify and develop capstone opportunities.
- 2) Curriculum revision process: enhancing inclusion and better meeting employer needs. Transcriptability of concentrations needs to be addressed.
- 3) Program assessment: Develop and implement direct assessment of learning and a diversity plan
- 4) Cultivate opportunities for program growth

## **Lunch Presentation**

“A Vision for a Community Engaged Master of Public Administration Program” (Talk by Mike on strategic vision for the MPA program)

## **Assistant Director Reports**

Anna has represented MPA at many recruiting events such as ICSEW, Saint Martin’s Careers for the Common Good, the Evergreen Graduate Fair, she continually conducts informational sessions at the Olympia Timberland Library, she visits undergraduate evening and weekend studies and she’s collaborating with state agencies regarding their lunch recruiting events.

Cheryl mentioned a past practice that worked well when she was the MPA Director; “traveling seminars.” This involves taking seminars to an agency where alumni and prospective students can come together and she said they were extremely well received.

A unified social media front was brought up. Anna is willing to take on Twitter as well as Linked In and Facebook to facilitate this unification. She would also like to do an audit on posts and will engage a student ambassador in this effort.

Puanani was very interested in the idea of bringing a seminar to Lummi Island and to Western WA University. She let us know that the longhouse has created a new position, a Tribal Recruiter. She’s working on creating community in Tacoma and one of the ways she’s doing that is through a photo project she just completed that reflects back to the beginnings of the Tacoma campus formation.

## **MPA Summer Institute Report**

Eric reported out on the MPA Summer Institute (complete report is forthcoming):

28 attendees (14 practitioners, 8 students and 6 MPA faculty and staff)

Discussion was oriented around questions on managing innovation in the public and nonprofit sectors.

Takeaways:

- 1) It would be great to make the summer institute something really special (would like more thought put into how we do the summer institute-new approaches),
- 2) Reinforce ways for connecting what we’re teaching with professional experience, “applied innovation in the public sector” dovetailed with it.

- 3) Governments are not ordered in the way innovation is taking us, we won't be able to get to innovation if we don't make the changes within government. Embed lifelong skills-beware of the sanctity and purity of the past that might limit our futures, we need an online presence
- 4) Stay true to our core mission and that we don't need to be trendy. Participants also echoed that core skills are really important, storytelling with data and how to collaborate around a common purpose with people were skills they really appreciate in our program.

## **Student Survey Reports**

Cheryl reported on progress on the Inclusive Excellence initiative and provided an orientation to the assessment data MPA has collected that is available on the Inclusive Excellence blog site (<http://blogs.evergreen.edu/mpaieproject/>). The data from spring's curriculum survey is there (48 responses from students, 53 from alumni).

Anna and Mike reported on the MPA student survey:

34 responses completed between May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 21 (out of 101 students: 34% response rate).

Some things to note:

Participation goes down in 2016-17 and thereafter

Significant drop in all satisfaction and mission-related items in 2017-18 and continued into this year

Given the low response rate, it is not clear how much weight to give to individual items. But seems to signal a significant proportion of students remain "disgruntled", not over particular aspects of the program but with the program as a whole.

## **Discussion of Summer Institute and Student Survey Reports**

The takeaways are that our sample sizes weren't adequate to assess. Many agreed that in order to increase participation, we should administer surveys online while students are in class. Some of the results were: students love electives and hate core; love the structure but the content could change; not enough non-profit in the core curriculum and also not enough stats; they're open to hybrid classes; open to core on one weekend per quarter; Saturday core would be helpful. It was decided that MPA would approach assessing this survey as one of their governance assignments and that 3 people would volunteer for that group assignment.

It was agreed that curriculum redesign wouldn't be based solely on the assessment committee's recommendation.

## **Alumni Relations Plan and Raiser's Edge system (Anna)**

MPA is joining with Advancement in a small facet of Raiser's Edge to update MPA Alumni contacts. We will also be able to use this resource to send out an MPA newsletter. Our first one will be going out in October. If you have any updated alumni info, please send it to Anna. MPA faculty requested that data outputs from the newsletter send be reported back to them. It was recommended that we construct our own subject line for the newsletter email that goes out.

## **MPA Governance Assignments**

Group Facilitated Curriculum Redesign - All  
(2) Downtown Symposium - Meghan, Cheryl  
(2) Admissions - Doreen, Amy  
(3) Assessment - Eric, Lucky, Mike  
(1) United Faculty of Evergreen (UFE) - Cali

To consider later:

Summer Institute-Mike volunteered to organize it/Eric and Doreen may consider it in the Spring