

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Management in the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs to offer the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Policy and Management, effective immediately. The Doctor of Philosophy degree program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled by the Graduate School in the 2010-2011 academic year. At such time that the Board of Regents grants continuing status, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

In September 2005, the Graduate School received the proposal from the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs requesting authority to offer the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Management. The doctoral program is designed to provide a unique integration of public policy and management conceptual frameworks and institutional knowledge with a rigorous foundation in quantitative and qualitative research methods. It builds from the School's strengths and policy area specializations in preparing students to engage the social and natural sciences in formulating policy options and assessing consequences of public policy challenges and solutions. Students will develop a specialization in both a discipline and substantive policy field related to their dissertation area. The program is designed to train faculty to both teach and conduct research. The Evans School currently offers a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) degree program.

Graduates of the PhD program working with the School's faculty may influence critical public policy or management changes in the following ways: conduct environmental policy research seeking cost-effective methods to reduce energy consumption and improve air or water quality in communities with high levels of pollution; work with school boards and educators to develop and implement innovative reforms to improve the quality of education in urban schools; work with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector to address major public issues as developing affordable housing or improving community public transportation; or work with international non-governmental organizations on program evaluation for accountability of resources and to expand humanitarian relief efforts.

The proposed PhD in Public Policy and Management will provide an opportunity for doctoral education in the region. Portland State University in Portland, Oregon is the

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only university in the Pacific Northwest that offers a PhD in Public Policy. Unlike the University of Washington, Portland State University is not a Research 1 university and does not possess the breadth of resources and strengths in cognate disciplines and policy area specializations. The Evans School's proposed PhD program is in response to the existing regional and national need in academic, public, nonprofit and private sectors for individuals with expertise in areas the proposed PhD program will focus. Data of the

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National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) in 2004 indicated that 57 of 250 schools offer doctoral programs, with the majority offering master's level programs. Based on growth of enrollment in these schools, it is anticipated that a demand will increase for doctoral programs as a significant number of senior faculty approach retirement in the near future.

Two external faculty from public policy programs at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN and University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ reviewed the PhD proposal and recommended strongly that it be approved. They noted that building on strengths of the existing MPA program positions the Evans School well to offer a high quality PhD program. Additionally, the shortage of qualified PhDs in the field nationally will position program graduates to compete for academic appointments at leading universities and other opportunities in research institutes.

On March 30, 2006, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) in Resolution No. 06-07 approved the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Management to be offered by the Daniel J. Evans School in Public Affairs at the University of Washington. HECB approved the program noting the following: it supports the unique role and mission of the institution by providing students with an opportunity to earn a degree that connects with the research and public service missions of the university; it responds to demonstrated student, employer, and community needs, consistent with the state and regional needs assessment and the institution's own assessment of need; its recruitment and diversity plan is well defined and builds upon an existing and successful infrastructure in the School; it has undergone an extensive development and review process and received support from external experts; and the proposed program costs are reasonable.

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The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents' action on the Doctor of Philosophy degree program in Public Policy and Management.