

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs

Renaming the Policy Consensus Center to the William D. Ruckelshaus Center

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the administration at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs that the Policy Consensus Center at the University of Washington, Seattle be renamed the William D. Ruckelshaus Center at the University of Washington, Seattle.

BACKGROUND:

The William D. Ruckelshaus Center is a joint venture between the University of Washington and Washington State University. The Center, by drawing together representatives from a wide network of agencies, advocacy groups, businesses, agribusiness, tribal governments, university researchers, and others helps to find long-term solutions to policy conflicts in Washington State, and enhances the region's capacity for effective, sustainable policy making and problem solving.

The mission and services of the Policy Consensus Center were developed after examining efforts in other states and consulting with some 300 leaders from around Washington and the universities. The center provides immediate assistance to those already in conflict, as well as anticipatory assistance to those who see conflict approaching. The center gets involved only if all significantly affected parties agree to its presence, and tries not to duplicate services already available. The center's involvement doesn't signal an imposed solution, but instead assists in finding one.

Among similar centers, this is the only two-university effort with statewide reach (University of Washington and Washington State University) and it offers the most comprehensive services, including instruction and research. The center has also benefited from a diverse and active advisory board. Board members provide advice on center priorities, business model, and mission, as well as on specific projects. The board includes leaders from business, labor, environment, agriculture, non-profits, law, and officials of tribal, state and local governments.

Bill Ruckelshaus's lifelong path of public service includes serving as the founding administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Since that time, he has been called upon by Democratic and Republican presidents, senators, governors and others, to assist with issues that cross political, regulatory, public-private and international boundaries. His career has led him to various roles in the Washington State business community and he is currently a strategic director at Madrona Venture Group. He remains active in many community problem

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solving activities, including a recent appointment by Governor Gregoire to head the Puget Sound Partnership.

In 2003, he accepted from the presidents of UW and WSU the chairmanship of the advisory board of the Policy Consensus Center, which community leaders later requested be named the Ruckelshaus Center. A lifetime of thoughtful and considerate leadership enables him to head any problem-solving effort with the respect of liberals, conservatives, Republicans, Democrats, tribal leaders, commercial fisherman, business executives, environmental activists, Federal and state leaders and others. It is only natural that this center be named in honor of a true leader who represents the ideals that make up the center's mission: integrity, clear and practical thinking, respect for all, and civil solutions that create a better future for everyone.