

**Academic Plan of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration:  
2002-2007**

**Progress Report and Update of PSPA Plan: January 2004 (all updates in red)**

**Executive Summary**

**Note: All time tables and activity schedules have been updated in the planning document to reflect the summary below.**

**1. New Programs/Minors/Tracks/Courses/Other Initiatives**

PSPA's plan calls for several new initiatives:

- PSPA will undertake major new responsibility for core course offerings in the revised graduate program in public administration. **(DONE: PSPA FACULTY NOW TEACH ENTIRE MPA CORE COURSE OFFERINGS)**
- PSPA will plan and implement the initiative agreed to with China University of Mining Technology. This will entail the offering of the MPA program and travel by faculty to Mainland China. **(IN PROCESS: PSPA IS COMPLETING THE SECOND YEAR OF COURSE OFFERINGS FOR THE CUMT PROGRAM AND EXPECTS TO FINISH THE FIRST STUDENT COHORT IN LATE 2004)**
- PSPA will work to achieve small program accreditation for the MPA program by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. **(IN PROCESS: PSPA/MPA IS IN BEGINNING PHASE OF NASPAA APPROVAL PROCESS)**
- PSPA will work with the university in its other efforts underway to offer the MPA throughout Asia. **(IN PROCESS: NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY.)**
- PSPA will work to implement the new Health Care Administration concentration in the MPA program. **(DONE: THE CONCENTRATION IS BEING IMPLEMENTED AS A PART OF THE MPA PROGRAM)**
- PSPA will become active in on-line and web-assisted instruction. **(DONE: ENTIRE MPA PROGRAM IS BEING OFFERED ONLINE; SELECTED UNDERGRADUATE COURSES ARE BEING OFFERED ONLINE; AND BLACKBOARD TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER METHODS OF COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION ARE BEING UTILIZED BY PSPA FACULTY)**
- PSPA will increase the applications of technology to its curriculum and seek to develop technology-equipped classrooms. **(IN PROCESS: TECHNOLOGY**

## **PURCHASES FOR CLASSROOM USE COMBINED WITH BLACKBOARD AND OTHER COMPUTER ASSISTED TECHNIQUES)**

### **2. Other Goals**

The remainder of the PSPA plan calls for the enhancing of current activities and programs and exploration of future opportunities. The goals identified include the following:

- In keeping with the university's emphasis on Liberal Arts, the Department will continue to provide undergraduate programs and courses that enable students to acquire a strong liberal arts background that will contribute to the development of analytical and lifelong learning skills.
- The department will produce graduates who have acquired a general knowledge of the discipline, the ability to think analytically, and the communication skills necessary for advancement in their field or sub-field.  
**(WITH RESPECT TO THESE FIRST TWO ITEMS, THE PROCESS FOR EXAMINING CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION IS JUST BEGINNING. THE ADVISEMENT OF UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS HAS BEEN THE FIRST ISSUE SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED WITH THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENTAL UNDERGRADUATE ADVISEMENT PROGRAM AND COORDINATOR)**
- PSPA will explore collaboration with other academic departments to offer courses and programs on an interdisciplinary basis. **(AT PRESENT, PSPA IS CROSS LISTING A COURSE IN NATIVE AMERICAN LAW WITH THE DEPT. OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES)**
- In keeping with the university's goal of adapting and humanizing emerging information technology to meet the needs of our students, the Department will increase the infusion of technology into its courses. **(AS INDICATED ABOVE, PSPA IS AGGRESSIVELY PURSUING ONLINE PROGRAM AND COURSE OFFERINGS AND IS INTEGRATING MORE COMPUTER MEDIATED OR ASSISTED INSTRUCTION INTO ITS COURSES)**
- The department will remain committed to providing an environment of academic excellence that encourages and supports faculty as they engage in a variety of scholarly and intellectual development activities within the discipline. **(ANNUAL EVALUATION OF FACULTY INDICATES A FACULTY ACTIVE IN SCHOLARSHIP AND IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. A DEPT. ANALYSIS AND AN ARTICULATION OF SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT OF FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP WILL COMMENCE THIS ACADEMIC YEAR)**

- In keeping with the service mission of the university, PSPA faculty will be encouraged and supported as they engage in efforts to provide their professional service to the region, the discipline and the university. **(AS INDICATED IN ANNUAL FACULTY EVALUATIONS, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IS SATISFACTORY)**

### 3. Related Theme(s)

Several of the UNCP planning themes are directly related to PSPA's planning initiatives. These are:

- a. "Preparing knowledgeable managers and professionals for the future to ensure business, economic, and community development." The MPM program through the professional training of public and not for profit managers and leaders should be a very vital part of this institution's efforts in relation to this goal.
- b. "Adapting emerging technology to meet the intellectual, pedagogical, and creative needs of the society...." In our discipline especially, this planning theme has great relevance in the training of public managers and administrators etc.
- c. "Promoting international exchanges of faculty, students, and administrators to enhance the cultural understanding of the University community and region." The MPM activities in China and throughout Asia certainly relate very directly to this planning theme.
- d. "Emphasis on Liberal Arts as the foundation for both critical thinking and life-long learning."

### 4. Resources Required To Implement New Initiatives

- **NEW FACULTY**-A minimum of two new faculty members will be needed over the next two years to implement the new MPM graduate responsibilities in relation to both the China initiative, the revision of core offering, and the implementation of the public health concentration. These new positions will also be required as a necessary component in efforts to achieve program accreditation. Additional expansion and growth of the program will also require that the issue of new faculty be constantly reviewed and appropriately addressed as developments warrant. Given the future goals and anticipated activities of this program, its needs and the department's needs in relation to it should be a top priority in the planning period. **(TWO NEW FACULTY POSITIONS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE PSPA DEPT. SINCE THIS PLANNING PROCESS HAS BEGUN. WITH A 30% INCREASE IN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, AND A TRIPLING OF THE MPA ENROLLMENT OVER THAT SAME TIME PERIOD, THIS HAS BEEN APPRECIATED AND NEEDED. WITH AN ANTICIPATED 25% INCREASE IN**

**INROLLMENTS OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS, AND THE NEW DAY TIME MPA, WITH THE ALREADY EXISTING NIGHT TIME AND A RAPIDLY GROWING ONLINE MPA, ONE OR TWO MORE NEW POSITIONS WILL BE NECESSARY OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS)**

- **GRADUATE ASSISTANTS-** As a product of expanded graduate teaching, and to assist the department in the maintaining of quality in its undergraduate programs, this department should be assigned two graduate assistants per year to assist its faculty. **(MORE FULLTIME GRADUATE ASSISTANTS MUST BE ASSIGNED TO THE DEPT. OR GRADUATE PROGRAM. THIS HAS NOT, AS YET, BEEN SYSTEMATIC OR PREDICTABLE)**
- **TECHNOLOGY-**Technology and training for online delivery of courses needs to be prioritized for this department. Again, the China initiative will entail an on-line delivery mode to deliver a part of each course etc. Also, online delivery of the public health administration option is a part of future planning. The equipping of departmental classrooms and labs with technology appropriate to teaching and student needs also needs to be prioritized for this department. **(IMPROVEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY IN DIAL AND DEPT. AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT HAVE BEGUN AND WILL NEED TO CONTINUE)**

##### **5. New Department Structure or Organizational Change**

It should be noted that the evolving of the MPM program into a public administration program involving more of this department's faculty and resources does require an analysis of the relationship between the MPM and the department. Hitherto, MPM has been a stand-alone program. This was due to its history as a generic program for both public and business administration. The subsequent creation of the MBA, and its location in the Business department, resulted in programmatic changes for MPM that have led to its present situation. But the question of its relationship to the department has evolved without any definition or clarity. This should be addressed immediately. Over the long haul, as the MPM grows to its optimal level, some thought may need to be given to minor restructuring of the system of colleges or schools i.e. Might it become advantageous and profitable to think about a school of Business and Public Affairs? **(THE MPM HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RENAMED THE MASTERS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. THE MPA AND THE DEPT. HAVE BECOME INTEGRATED AND WILL, IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE BE HOUSED IN THE SAME LOCATION)**

##### **6. Anticipated Student Demand**

All new initiative involves existing programs targeted for expansion. The international involvement of the department and the MPM program, the domestic growth in the MPM, and the current cycle of undergraduate enrollment growth for the institution and the department clearly justify the resources requested above. **(OVER THE PAST THREE**

**YEARS PSPA HAS EXPERIENCED A 30% INCREASE IN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT AND A TRIPLING OF THE MPA ENROLLMENT. THESE TRENDS SHOULD CONTINUE. BASED ON THE UNIVERSITY'S PROJECTED GROWTH, PSPA SHOULD EXPERIENCE A MINIMUM 25% ENROLLMENT INCREASE OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS)**

**7. Interdisciplinary Collaboration Involved**

PSPA will explore options.

**8. New Initiatives and Additions to Original Plan:**

**a. INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

The Concept: The International Consortium for Public Administration is a partnership of leading American/International academic experts in the field and institutions committed to providing online certificate and degree training in public administration. This concept is under preliminary exploration.

**b. NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONCENTRATION IN MPA.**

The MPA program has begun planning a concentration in Emergency Management. Goal is to have this up and running in the 2004-05 academic-year.

c. The MPA now has a fully functioning daytime program to go with its nighttime program. Also, since the original plan was produced, the MPA is now also offered in its entirety as an online program. This is, in effect, three-graduate-programs (day, night, and online). All are to be offered on the state-funding model and in load.