18 September 2012

To: University Curriculum Committee

Thru: Daniel LaRocque, Associate Dean
       College of Liberal Arts

From: Gerry Gryski, Chair

Re: proposals for minor and major in Public Administration

This proposal has two parts: the elimination of the Public Administration major, and the addition of a minor in Public Administration.

The Political Science Department underwent Academic Program Review during AY 2011-12. A major finding of the site team—subsequently endorsed by the CLA Dean and the Provost—was that the Department was exceeding its capacity with respect to its multiple academic programs, and that consideration be given to eliminating the Public Administration (PUBA) major.

Departmental faculty approved the elimination of the major but simultaneously approved the addition of a minor in Public Administration, essentially as a middle ground between the status quo and program elimination. The Department offers two graduate degrees in Public Administration; we also have an accelerated BA/MPA program in that area. As such there is a constituency of students with sufficient interest in Public Administration to justify a minor. Moreover, in contrast to the Public Administration major, the minor would present no significant capacity issues to the Department and would lead to a more efficient use of faculty resources.
Hi Kevin:

The UCC expressed two concerns about our proposals to eliminate the PUBA major and begin a Public Administration minor.

The first involves an assurance that current PUBA majors will be able to get the courses they need to complete the major and graduate in a timely manner. Totally reasonable, and this I guarantee (note, e.g., the full complement of required PUBA courses scheduled for spring).

The other concern involved substitution of the Public Administration minor for the PUBA major as the academic requirement for admission to the accelerated BA/MPA program. Again, a totally reasonable concern. At the time we proposed this, we did not know that the Graduate School would frown on a requirement that involved a minor rather than a full-blown major, but we certainly understand the point. Attached is a mock up that details how this would be done, if prospect is permissible at all.

For now, though, the most important thing for us is to get approval to discontinue the PUBA major. In fairness to the students, we’d not want a bunch of them to declare or transfer into a moribund major at the end of fall semester. If we could get that for now, and table admission to the accelerated program till we have a resolution of that issue with the Graduate School, I think we would have the ideal albeit temporary arrangement.

As always, Kevin, thanks for your help.

GG
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Changed Course Equivalents for PUBA/MPA
Accelerated Program as Public Administration is Changed from an Undergraduate Major to a Minor

Current PUBA Major

POLI-7350 Seminar in Public Administration
SUBSTITUTES FOR: Group 2 (Govt & Adm) course

POLI-7000 Research Methods
SUBSTITUTES FOR: POLI-3000 Research Methods

POLI-7150 Public Personnel Administration
SUBSTITUTES FOR: POLI-4160 Public Personnel Adm.

POLI-7360 Policy and Administration
SUBSTITUTES FOR: POLI-3270 Policy Process

New Pub. Adm. Minor in POLI Major

POLI-7350 Seminar in Public Administration
SUBSTITUTES FOR: POLI-3250 Intro to Public Adm (required of all students in Minor)

POLI-7360 Policy and Administration
SUBSTITUTES FOR: POLI-3270 Policy Process (required of all students in Minor)

POLI-7000 Research Methods
SUBSTITUTES FOR: POLI-3000 Research Methods (required of all POLI Majors)

POLI-7150 Public Personnel Administration
SUBSTITUTES FOR:
POLI-4160 Public Personnel Adm. In Public Management Track OR FOR:
POLI-5150 Intergovernmental Relations in NonProfit Track