DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 5: Spring 2002–Spring 2003

Memorandum of Agreement -- June 2003

Public Policy Studies Program

As a result of the fifth cycle of DePaul University's Academic Program Review Process (Cycle 5), the participants in the process enter into the following agreements. The participants understand that this document will be available to be made public once all the signatures are in place.

University Commitments to Cycle Five Units:

1. Academic and Career Advising:
   a. The University will look into providing institutional assistance for graduate/professional school preparation in terms of publicizing and making certain that standardized test preparation programs are available.
   b. The University will look into implementing advising alerts through Campus Connect that encourage students to contact their advisors prior to enrolling in courses.

2. Diversity:
   Consistent with the University’s mission, DePaul University remains strongly committed to promoting the diversity of faculty, students, and staff. Academic Affairs will support a variety of strategies developed by departments and programs to enhance such diversity.

University Commitments to Interdisciplinary Studies Programs:

1. Cross Referencing Courses:
   The University will look into having ARC (the Advising Resource Center) identify departmental courses that count for credit in various interdisciplinary studies programs and cross-referencing those courses in Campus Connect under interdisciplinary program headings to increase student awareness of course options in the Interdisciplinary Studies Programs.

Actions agreed upon for the coming academic year:

1. Strategic Planning
   a. Governance
      The Public Policy Studies Program has been in the process of formalizing its governance including determining voting rights and auxiliary roles corresponding with levels of involvement. Once governance decisions have been formalized, mission and learning goals drafted for the program will be voted on.
   b. Integration of Public Policy Studies Tracks
      The Public Policy Studies Program is pursuing a strategy for integrating its urban studies and environmental studies tracks, while preserving the distinctiveness of each track.
Cross-linking of courses is being developed in order to programatically connect the two tracks. Common areas such as social justice, sustainability, and the urban environment are areas actively being pursued.

2. Curriculum
   
a. Core Courses
   
   Progress is being made in the conscious integration of the Public Policy Studies’ learning goals into the core courses. This progress will continue throughout the coming academic year (2003 - 2004).
   
b. Flexible Third Track
   
   Students, in conjunction with their advisors, can tailor a set of courses to focus on their areas of interest and create a hybrid course of study between the two existing tracks. Areas of interest will be monitored should any particular area appear to merit its course base being expanded or being developed into a formal third track.
   
c. Career/Graduate School Advising
   
   The Public Policy Studies Program will pursue a variety of activities to improve student advising and cohort collegiality. Activities may include events to enable students to discuss careers and graduate school opportunities with policy professionals, talks by faculty about research interests, and the creation of a Public Policy Student Club. Furthermore, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will continue discussions with the Public Policy Program about the possibility of gathering space for the program being allocated, when/if facilities become available.
   
d. Quantitative Skills
   
   The Public Policy Studies Program will continue to investigate curricular elements needed to enhance students’ quantitative/research skills. Furthermore, the program will look into whether or not some of the electives, particularly those in Economics, that fulfill the quantitative requirement can have sections for students not interested in pursuing a business degree as, anecdotally, many Interdisciplinary Studies students feel disenfranchised when enrolled in these courses.

3. Assessment
   
   Compliance with University/TLA assessment practices is of the highest priority for the Public Policy Studies Program and will begin in the 2003 – 2004 academic year.

4. Students
   
a. The Public Policy Studies Program will seek ways to enhance contact with students through career/graduate school advising events and formalizing advising procedures.
   
b. The program will track data on student advising, contact information, retention, and graduation.
5. Diversity

The Public Policy Studies Program is committed to promoting the diversity of faculty, students, and staff, and will, when a new faculty line is made available, use hiring strategies intended to enhance its diversity.

6. Collaborations

   a. Within the University

      The Public Policy Studies Program is committed to identifying and collaborating with other programs, departments, and centers and institutes within DePaul University when collaboration can benefit all parties.

   b. Outside the University

      Collaborative programming and activities will be pursued by the Public Policy Studies Program with appropriate external entities, both public and private. Both the program and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences agree to discuss possibilities in these areas.

7. Marketing

The Public Policy Studies Program will use the first-year programming as an area to offer courses that relate to public policy studies and inform potential students about this major. Additionally, the program will restructure its web-site to increase its user-friendliness and provide more information.

Signed:

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Chair of Unit Review Committee  Department Chair/Program Director

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APRC Subcommittee  APRC Subcommittee

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Chair of APRC  Dean of the College

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Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs  Executive V.P. for Academic Affairs