

**SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES  
SPRING MEETING  
APRIL 6, 1999  
MINUTES**

Attendees:

Roy Bahl	John Hogan	Ross Rubenstein
Anne Bramlette	Julie Hotchkiss	Ben Scafidi
Michael Brock	Bill Kahnweiler	Bruce Seaman
Arthur Brooks	Jim Ledbetter	Paula Stephan
Ron Cummings	Greg Lewis	Greg Streib
Kelly Edmiston	Edith Manns	Laura Taylor
Jennifer Edwards	Bob Moore	Peter Terrebonne
Sue Fagan	Shannon Mudd	Jeanie Thomas
Paul Farnham	Harvey Newman	John Thomas
Mike Foster	Lloyd Nigro	Neven Valev
Sally Fowler	Melinda Pitts	Mary Beth Walker
Shiferaw Gurmu	Theodore Poister	William Waugh
Carol Hansen	Avani Raval	Verna Willis
Amy Helling	Felix Rioja	Katherine Willoughby
Gary Henry	Betsy Robertson	

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 P.M. by Roy Bahl, Dean.

**I. Old Business**

The minutes of the Fall Meeting (November 12, 1998) were approved as distributed.

**II. Presentations**

**A. Introduction of New People**

John Thomas introduced Michael Brock, who will be in charge of SPS' Career Assistance Unit. It is the clearinghouse and resource center for jobs and placement of students.

Sally Fowler joins the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies as an assistant to the Chair. She is a graduate of Public Administration and Urban Studies.

## **B. Introduction of new Director of Development**

Paula Stephan introduced Anne Bramlette, who joins the School of Policy Studies as the new Director of Development. She is an alumnus, who received a B.S. in Urban Administration. She interned with Dan Sweat. She was also the Director of Georgia School Age Care Association, of which Linda Calloway, from OCOP is a board member.

## **C. Dean's Report**

### **New Hires**

John Thomas announced that the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies has hired David Van Slyke from the State University of New York at Albany. He will be a welcome addition for the Non-Profit Policy area. He comes highly recommended.

Christine Roch joins PAUS from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Her specialty is in Social Policy. She also comes highly recommended and has a strong publishing record.

There is an offer out to Judith Ottoson, who will be a joint appointment between PAUS and ARC. She will act as a liaison between the department and center. She is currently at the University of British Columbia.

Gary Henry noted that she brings a strong background in Public Health and will help in collaborative efforts between the center and department.

Laura Taylor announced that Susan Laury will be joining the Department of Economics. She will be manager of the Environmental and Experimental Economics Lab, and will work to make the lab available to all faculty for experiments and studies. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University. She has a fine publication record, and has specialties in funding mechanisms and finance.

Bruce Seaman announced that the Department of Economics has hired Yongshen Xu. He received his Ph.D. from Tulane, and is currently working in Japan. He has an excellent publication record.

Roy Bahl announced the addition of Jim Alm as a faculty member in Economics. He comes to SPS from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His specialty is in Public Economics and Public Finance.

### **Center Activities**

Sam Skogstad and Jorge Martinez are in Washington working on a proposal for a USAID project.

The School hosted a public address for His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, president-elect of Nigeria in the Speaker's Auditorium of the Student Center

on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The event was a success with over 450 people attending. Roy Bahl, Sam Skogstad and Jorge Martinez also met with president-elect Obasanjo to discuss assistance to his new government.

The School is embarking on new adventures. United States Aid for International Development Agency will have two indefinite quantity contracts worth approximately \$20 million each for work in Eastern Europe and the new Independent States. When task orders are issued by USAID, the winners of these contracts will be able to bid on them, and the winner will be awarded the work.

The Policy Research Center will be reviving the International Training Program. The School will be hosting a delegation of treasurers from the 12 municipalities of Palestine, who will be arriving May 3<sup>rd</sup> for two weeks of training in public finance. Katherine Willoughby and Ross Rubenstein will be heading the training program.

The School has also won a training program for Sri Lanka, and is in the hunt for training programs for Uganda and Bulgaria.

Ron Cummings reported that the Environmental Policy Center is working with Lt. Governor Mark Taylor's office on the Flint River Project in South Georgia. The state government is putting in \$13 million dollars into the project, and the Georgia Research Alliance approached the center to develop a proposal. The program will be a collaboration with Albany State University. They are interested in a graduate program in Public and Business Administration, with SPS taking a leading role. The Board of Regents will look favorably on this project. SPS is to start the research on the program, and the Center is looking into grant money to fund a Water Center in Albany with collaboration from Albany State University.

Gary Henry reported that ARC is working on its first project of having a web based survey. The project is underway with data collection. This will allow the center to expand beyond the use of the telephone.

Jim Ledbetter announced that the Health Policy is working on the Rural Health Network. Currently there are 12 counties participating in the program.

### **Dan Sweat Chair**

Roy Bahl met with representatives of BellSouth to discuss issues concerning the Dan Sweat Chair in Educational Policy. The proposal is to bring in "thinkers" for discussion on Urban Education on issues concerning the endowed chair with the College of Education.

### **SPS Building**

There has been some progress on the building. The plans are at the architect for the final design for the interior. The signage for the name has been approved. Steelcase will be the supplier of the cubicle furniture.

### **Dean's Newsletter**

Roy Bahl announced that there will be a monthly Dean's Newsletter sent out electronically. This will enable SPS personnel to know more about what is happening within the school. Betsy Robertson will be sending the newsletter out.

### **Information Technology**

Greg Strieb is the Chair of the Information Technology Committee. They are working on a preliminary report on how to implement technology in the classroom. The committee would like to implement technology in the classroom beginning with the Fall 1999 Semester.

### **SPS Annual Report**

The Annual Report is at the printer. It should be in the office by the middle of April. The report is circulated within GSU and also externally. It's a great way to showcase the research activity of the School. To celebrate the accomplishments of the School of Policy Studies during the past year, we will have a celebration during the second week of May for the entire school.

## **III. New Business**

### **A. Approval of Candidates for Graduation – Sue Fagan**

Sue Fagan presented the candidates for graduation during the Spring 1999 Semester commencement ceremonies. The list passed unanimously.

### **B. Faculty Affairs Committee Report – Bill Waugh for Keith Ihlanfeldt**

Please refer to the handouts from the meeting for more information.

Bill Waugh introduced the School of Policy Studies Workload Policy. It was patterned after the rest of the university, since the School did not have one.

Some issues were raised about the policy, concerning the language being too general and whether it followed the University's own policy on workload.

It was suggested that the Workload policy be returned to committee and that after revision hearings be held on the policy. The policy would then be considered at summer or fall meeting.

**C. Academic Programs Committee Report – Paul Farnham.**

Please refer to the handouts from the meeting for more information.

The Academic Programs Committee has three main issues on the agenda.

1. The Master of Arts in Economics – Policy Track.

Paul Farnham presented the Master of Arts in Economics Policy Track. The Academic Programs Committee has approved the new track that will prepare candidates for careers in the formation and/or implementation of economic policy or for professionals in the evaluation and interpretation of such policy to a wider audience. The program was put forward, and was passed unanimously.

2. New Undergraduate Courses in Economics

The Academic Programs Committee approved seven new courses. There were six courses at the 3000 level proposed and one at the 4000 level. The new courses will not draw students from existing courses, but should encourage other students to select these courses. The new courses were put forward for a vote, and were passed unanimously.

3. Freshman Learning Communities

The Freshman Learning Communities courses are a loose collection of courses offered to freshman. Currently there are 11 communities proposed for the Fall, and 5 offered during the Spring. Some selected courses are: Social Policy, Urban Problems in Policy, Environmental Policy. There is also GSU 1010, which is for new student orientation. It is being used to provide specific ideas about policy programs. If you would like more information on these courses contact Paul Farnham or the WebPages.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.