

**ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES**  
**Summer Faculty Meeting**  
**July 26, 2006**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

James Alm  
Roy Bahl  
Jamie Boex  
Marie Durham  
Sue Fagan  
Bruce Kaufman  
Yuriy Kitsul  
Greg Lewis  
Karen Minyard  
Bob Moore  
Harvey Newman  
Klara Peter

Ragan Petrie  
David Pitts  
Felix Rioja  
John Rork  
Bruce Seaman  
Greg Streib  
Laura Taylor  
Erdal Tekin  
Sadiraj Vlojca  
Dennis Young  
Yongsheng Xu

**I. Old Business**

Dean Bahl called the meeting to order and minutes of the Spring Meeting 2006 meeting were approved.

**II. Presentations**

**A. Dean's Report**

Dean Bahl said that it was somewhat early to report on the budget and on new hiring. Dean Bahl said that there are some interesting things going on within the college. One thing they are focusing on is the Usery Chair for the American Workplace and issues related to that. There will be various events and a Usery lecture this fall. In addition, they are planning an upcoming seminar on the historic development of Atlanta with Charles Loudermilk and Ambassador Andrew Young in October that will be quite interesting.

Dr. Alm said that they have 33 Masters students and 13 Ph.D. students. Seven students are from the United States and coming from schools including Vanderbilt, Georgia Tech, and Mississippi. Six foreign Ph.D. students will be joining them from countries including Jamaica and Bolivia. He also noted the upcoming 2 week Math Boot Camp that students will attend before classes start.

Greg Streib talked about incoming graduate students. They have students from India, two Fulbright scholars, a student from China, and three African Americans. The average GRE score average was 630.

Dean Bahl said that the university is very interested in retention of undergraduate students and we have had success with that.

Jim Alm said that the Economics department requested \$28,000 from the Office of the Provost and received \$35,000. The plans are to expand the tutoring lab. The department plans on contacting students whose GPA falls below 2.3 and to find out what issues they may be experiencing and to explore possible solutions. The department will also expand the use of clickers which is a new technology that tends to make students feel more involved in the classroom.

The Experimental Economics Lab asked for \$49,000 and received it. The money will be used for both undergraduates and graduate students content for Econ Port.

## **B. Introduction of New People**

Jim Alm introduced four new faculty members including John Rork who obtained his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1999 and is coming from Vassar. H. Banzhaf Spencer received his Ph.D. from Duke and focuses on environmental economics and policy analysis. Vjollca Sadiraj is a visiting Assistant Professor and has her Ph.D. from the University of Amsterdam. Paul Kagundu is a recent graduate who will be visiting and possibly teaching the Global Economy course.

Greg Streib introduced Janelle Kerlin who will be teaching Non Profit and Public Policy. Some of her interests include social enterprise and international non profit organizations.

David Pitts has won an award for the best dissertation from the American Political Science Association.

Wayne Thirsk will be a visiting professor for two years in the International Studies program. He comes to AYS from working in the field on a wide variety of public finance issues for the past several years.

## **C. Report from Center Directors**

### **Health Policy Center - Karen Minyard**

Karen Minyard said that the HPC is working to fulfill the academic part of its mission and that part of their strategy is collaborating with faculty and staff. They have been submitting project work to key meetings and have three invited papers in various journals.

Dr. Minyard said that others outside of HPC are pleased to contribute to the joint effort. One example is Erdal Tekin who is currently working on a paper with a topic of mutual interest.

Karen Minyard went on to say that they are doing a study of the Urban Safety Net in Atlanta with a Woodruff Foundation grant. The HPC has also played a role in helping to educate the legislature about various health related issues.

So far, they've given thirty statewide sessions with a pre-test and a post-test component to businesses and local officials. The information will be a part of the Biannual Child Policy Meeting.

Dr. Minyard recognized Lei Zhang who is a doctoral student and a model HPC scholar. She has spent three years with them and has gone through the entire prescribed program. She has now obtained a fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control.

Karen Minyard also mentioned that as of FY ending July 1, 2006 the Health Policy Center secured \$540,000 with 22 contracts. Mary Beth Walker discussed the Child Policy conference held at the Stone Mountain Conference Center. Presenters included Gary Henry, Mary Ann Phillips, and Kathleen Adams among others. There are six refereed papers coming out of the Child Policy Conference.

#### **Non Profit Studies Program – Dennis Young**

Dennis Young gave a report on the Non Profit Studies Program. The new people joining them include faculty member Janelle Kerlin. The Non Profit Program is currently developing a position for a Publications Specialist.

Dennis Young went on to say that there will be rolling core and affiliate faculty. In addition, other universities will be part of the "family".

Dennis Young also said that the program received a UPS grant for Non Profit Leadership. They plan to have a distinguished lecture series with topics including the economic stewardship of non profit organizations. The NPS program will also do research in leadership development and the succession of non profit leaders. NPS is planning an academic conference in partnership with other institutions about one year from now.

Dennis Young also mentioned that the program is currently seeking to begin an endowment campaign. Recent milestones of NPS include being admitted to the Non Profit Academic Centers Council.

The National Academy of Management Annual meeting was hosted here in Atlanta. They are planning a monthly research seminar series and the Executive Roundtable will happen again. The NPS has been fairly active with the Foundation Center and Dr. Waugh gave a workshop there.

Dennis Young said that the program may possibly publish a journal which would be entitled, Non Profit Policy and Practice. They are also working towards developing a doctoral program.

### **Experimental Economics Center – Ragan Petrie**

Ragan Petrie presented on the recent activities of the Experimental Economics Center. The center recently hosted the International Economic Science Association meeting. There were over 100 professionals from all over the world who attended. The event was a great success.

Ragan Petrie said that there were two dissemination workshops. One was part of the National Science Foundation grant that Jim Cox brought. The center is encouraging classroom use for individuals in Georgia who would not usually do experiments.

Ragan Petrie also mentioned that the center received a retention grant and that there are currently a lot of people traveling. She said that this summer a lot of students have become involved. Yuriy Kitsul is doing work with the Experimental Economics Center also.

### **International Studies Program – Jamie Boex**

Jamie Boex said that currently, the International Studies Program summer training sessions are in full swing. There are 18 people from all over the world including 12 from Tanzania. They have been doing some minor work in Bangladesh. He also said that ISP is working on getting a sign on their floor to identify the program.

Jamie Boex also mentioned that they recently had a Spanish Summer School and currently have an ongoing project in Guyana. There is also training happening in Guatemala, Latvia, and Romania and a number of projects that are starting and ending in Tanzania.

### **Fiscal Research Center**

It was noted that David Sjoquist will give his report on the activities of the Fiscal Research Center at the Fall Faculty meeting.

### **Program for Performance Management – Greg Streib**

Greg Streib reported that the Program for Rehabilitation Leadership will now be known as the Program for Performance Management. It is organized as a group and not a center. The PPM has obtained a training project with Gwinnett County.

Greg Streib also mentioned that there is an opportunity with the Department of Labor and that the Program for Performance Management as a whole has gotten a lot of interest from outside groups.

The Andrew Young School is now a part of the Social Science Research Network (SSRN). The research paper series is currently in its 11th issue.

#### **D. Approval of Candidates for Fall Graduation – Sue Fagan**

It was moved and approved to approve the fall graduation list.

#### **E. Faculty Affairs Committee Report – Bruce Seaman**

##### *Plus and Minus Grades*

Bruce Seaman reported on the possible introduction of plus and minus grades for the college. There was an initial faculty poll regarding the use of plus and minus grades. For the initial poll, 49.1% of full-time faculty responded.

The Robinson College of Business is voting electronically. The College of Education's policy is full instructor autonomy regardless of whether there are multiple course sections (our Option A). The College of Health and Human Services and the College of Law are still undecided. The College of Arts and Sciences is still in the process of voting.

There were five voting options including (A) no common policy at all; full faculty discretion, (B) full autonomy, but common policy multi-section requiring +/- grades be given, (C) full autonomy, but common policy multi-section forbidding +/- grades, (D) common policy requiring that +/- grades be given, (E) common policy forbidding +/- grades.

According to the first poll, those citing Option D as their first, or their only choice, won. The second most favored option was Option B at 19.2%.

Bruce Seaman led a discussion on the details of the grading policy. The meaning of each option was clarified. It was decided that the Faculty Affairs Committee make a recommendation and that they ask for an email vote. Bruce Seaman noted that faculty must put something regarding plus or minus grades in their syllabus which is due August 21. A note will be made in the follow-up vote that, "failure to respond is an abstention". There was a strong encouragement that all faculty vote.

##### *Unpaid Leave Policy*

Regarding unpaid leave, Bruce Seaman mentioned that the current policy is relatively vague. The Deans were concerned because there is too loose a policy.

Robert Moore noted that the issue is not that we are adding restrictions. However, right now all discretion is from the Dean, the Provost, etc. It can possibly open the door for confusion. It was noted that there are some things that a person on leave should be accountable for.

There was a motion to maintain the current policy and not to adopt a separate policy at this point. It was decided that the issue would be on the fall agenda.

#### **F. Other Business**

Sue Fagan mentioned that as of the fall semester there can only be six withdrawals on a student's record. After that, the student will get an automatic 'F'. Also, the student can drop a class in the first week.

#### **G. Announcements**

There will be a New Faculty/ Research Associate/ Staff Orientation on August 17.

Jim Alm gave a report on the new Dean Search. As of the meeting date, they had received 45 applications. The Committee has completed the phone interviews. Seven were conducted. The committee will be coming together in the next couple of weeks to have further discussions. There are several people coming to campus for a visit. However, not everyone wanted their name released.