

Graduate Academic Council  
2008 – 2009

Minutes of the Council meeting of March 2, 2009  
Approved by the Council on March 30, 2009

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff),  
S. Friedman, L. Kranich (Chair), J. McLaughlin,  
A. Pomerantz, M. Pryse, K. Reinhold, B. Shaw, C. Smith

Unable to attend: T. Clyman, G. Denbeaux, M. Earleywine, W. Meredith

Guests: D. Andersen, R. Hoyt

1. Minutes from 11/11/08 and 1/27/2009 were approved by unanimous vote.
2. Dean's Report – M. Pryse

The Dean provided an updated report to the Council on the budget, including plans for allocating graduate assistant support for '09-'10.

An internal doctoral program review will soon be launched. 1998 was the last time a review was completed, but more data will be available for the upcoming review. The Dean mentioned that all doctoral programs will be given sufficient time to show themselves in their best light.

3. Chair's Report – L. Kranich

The Charter amendment proposed by GOV requiring that all graduate courses be housed in a school or college was approved at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting.

The University Faculty Senate report included a presentation by the Chief Financial Officer explaining the gravity of the budget situation. Regarding the spring tuition increase, SUNY was to retain 90% of the funds and 10% was to be returned to the campuses. However, because of the way it was estimated, none went to the campuses. A question was raised of how campuses with large graduate enrollments would bear the cost of graduate tuition increases? The response was that the budget allocation for tuition has not increased since circa 1998.

The deactivation of the MS/MPH Bioethics/Public Health with Union College and the Albany Medical Center was approved by the Council on 11/11/2008. GAC was waiting for UPPC to act on the deactivation. During the interim period, the School of Public Health (SPH) was approached by Union College about re-launching the program and SPH has rescinded the proposal.

GAC voted on January 27<sup>th</sup> to discontinue the School of Education's Graduate Certificate in Urban Education. The Chair mentioned that UPPC has also approved the proposal and it will be introduced as a joint bill at the next Senate meeting.

4. New Business

Proposal to Suspend Admissions to the MA Public Affair & Policy Program

Professor David Andersen from Public Administration and Policy discussed his department's proposal to suspend admissions to the MA Public Affairs & Policy Program. He emphasized the proposal was to suspend admission and was not a proposal to suspend the program itself. Reed Hoyt, Chair of the University Planning and Policy Council (UPPC) was in attendance with inquiries from UPPC members. Professor Andersen provided the Council with an historical background and mentioned that the two programs offered by his department are the Master of Arts in Public Affairs and Policy (MAPAP) and the MPA. The majority of the policy concentrations are offered by faculty within the university (e.g., educational policies are housed within the School of Education). Public Administration and Policy is the home department providing core courses as well as some of the field courses, with the majority of the field courses provided via faculty elsewhere in the university. On average there are 60 new students in the MPA with about 20 new students in the MAPA each year. The two degree programs are mixed, and core courses are overlapped about 60% of the time. Currently there are three types of master's degree programs with a policy focus: MPA, MAPAP, and an MA in political science. We have been maintaining three cores, and the notion is to combine the core program. The proposal is to streamline the program to ensure all Master's students complete the same program. A number of details need to be worked out (e.g., how the policy concentration in fields around the university will fit into the combined program). Obligations for currently enrolled students will be fulfilled until such time as they graduate. Suspending admission to the program will give the department time to work out details of the proposal without a new cohort of students being added to the pipeline. A question was raised whether job openings are available for students currently enrolled in the MAPAP program? Professor Andersen responded that there were. Students were admitted last September for the two year Master's program, and the department has an obligation to work with them until they graduate. Those students were given the choice of remaining in the MAPAP program or enrolling in the MPA, and about 15 of 20 elected to do the latter. A joint program with Albany Law was mentioned by UPPC, but it is involved more with the MPA than with the MAPAP program. For Fall 2009, no students will be admitted. The program will use the time of suspended admissions to continue to work out the details of the BA/MPA and BA/MAPAP programs as well as several joint masters' degree programs. What becomes of applications to the joint program received by Public Administration and Policy? Professor Andersen mentioned the department meets with all applicants to discuss the situation. Chair Kranich informed the Council that the department's web page currently indicates that applications to the MAPAP are not being accepted. Professor Andersen mentioned that the department has a recruiting program, and that recruiters have updated material for their travels to job fairs, etc. A member inquired when the department stopped accepting applications. Professor Andersen stated it was August or September of 2008. The Chair questioned whether we might lose students who would have applied to the MAPAP program but would not apply to the MPA program. Professor Andersen did not think so, but he acknowledged that the opposite could happen with too many students seeking admission to advanced policy

specializations. He mentioned that the current concern within the School of Public Health is having enough chairs for students taking the concentration in Public Policy. This could be a problem because under the new arrangement all 80 of the MPA students could, in principle, seek policy concentrations rather than just the 20 currently enrolled in the MAPAP program. A member reiterated that the proposal is to deactivate admission. However, even if it were proposed to eliminate the program, it would remain active until we can certify to the State that the pipeline is empty with all students having graduated from the program. Professor Andersen mentioned they would review the Graduate Bulletin, and he believes it would not be unreasonable to incorporate all programs as tracks within a single Master's program. Although the guidelines could result in losing some flexibility, we will need to proceed slowly. Professor Andersen mentioned the MPA program is nationally ranked. Last week the program finalized the accreditation process, and the program was once again approved. Professor Andersen emphasized the importance of retaining the department's identity. The main goal is to keep students, the department, and other interested parties happy. The Council approved the proposal 7-0-0.

#### Approval of Professor Lynn A. Warner, Social Welfare, to CAAS

The Council unanimously approved Professor Lynn A. Warner from Social Welfare for membership on the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing.

#### Proposal for Second Bachelor's Degree/Admission to Combined Second Bachelor's/Master's Degree

This proposal was passed by UAC on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Chair Kranich mentioned receiving a request from UAC Chair Joan Savitt requesting two changes in the proposed bill: (1) changing the admission deadline for fall from July 1 to May 1, and (2) inserting an additional sentence following "...will not be admitted to the university" stating, "Appeals will be processed by the Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing of the Undergraduate Academic Council." Jon Bartow volunteered to compose updated wording for the first sentence and e-mail to Council members. The Council approved the proposal, with amended wording, by a vote of 7-0-0.

### 5. Committee Reports

#### Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing

Since Chair Clyman was unable to attend the meeting, no committee report was provided.

#### Committee on Curriculum and Instruction

Chair Friedman reported that the committee convened an electronic meeting regarding the Doctor of the Public Health program. Jon Bartow provided the committee with an historical perspective which clarified committee questions. CCI will continue to review the proposal at their next meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure

Chair Smith discussed the proposed revision to the billing policy of Bachelor's/Master's students. She acknowledged that textual changes to the policy were provided by both Sue Faerman and Sheila Mahan. Current policy dictates that students are considered undergraduates for billing, financial aid and head counting purposes until completion of 120 credits of satisfactory coursework. The committee's proposal recommends that students be considered graduate students during the semester in which they register for their 13<sup>th</sup> graduate credit or upon receipt of the Bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. Council discussed the matter. A member inquired whether students could only double count their first 12 graduate credits for both undergrad and master degrees. Chair Smith commented that any 12 graduate credits taken as an undergraduate (after admission to a combined program) can be double counted as curriculum permits, but it can only be 12. She stated that although the proposed changes would result in lost graduate level tuition, the proposed changes are beneficial to students. A student could double count 12 graduate credits while being charged at an undergraduate level. However, the semester in which the student registers for their 13<sup>th</sup> graduate credit or completes the Bachelor's, graduate tuition will be charged. The students in combined programs under the current policy incur additional financial burdens if they transferred into the University and/or are pursuing multiple majors and/or minors as they are charged graduate tuition for every credit taken beyond 120 even if they are undergraduate level courses. The proposed changes would affect tuition, financial aid and headcount identification. The suggestion was made to update the Graduate Bulletin's web pages with this information. The Council voted 7-0-0 to approve the CEPP's report. Since the Undergraduate Academic Council has already approved the proposal, it will now go forward to the Senate on Monday as a combined UAC/GAC bill.

6. Future Meetings

Due to Chair Kranich's teaching schedule, future meetings will have a 2:50 PM start time.

END OF GAC 3/2/2009 MINUTES

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**Attachment #1**

To: Graduate Academic Council (GAC)

From: Christy Smith, Chair  
GAC Committee on Educational Policy and Procedures (CEPP)

Date: February 4, 2009

Re: Report and Recommendation

The GAC CEPP met on 2/4/2009. In attendance were C. Smith (Chair), M. Earleywine, J. McLaughlin, and B. Shaw. Attached is the report and recommendations from the Committee.

**Report to the Graduate Academic Council from the GAC Committee on Educational Policy and Procedures, February 4, 2009**

**Revision to Billing Policy of Bachelor's Master's Students**

The Committee was charged with reviewing a proposal to change the current Bachelor's Master's (BAMA) combined program tuition charge schedule. Under the current policy, BAMA students are considered a graduate student for tuition, financial aid and headcount after they have completed 120 total credits even if they have not completed any graduate credits or graduated with their Bachelor's. The proposal recommends that students be considered graduate level during the semester they register for their 13<sup>th</sup> graduate credit.

After careful consideration of the proposal and current University policy, the Committee agreed (4-0) to recommend that the proposal be approved allowing students to be considered as an undergraduate for the purposes of tuition, financial aid, and headcount identification until completion of 12 credits of graduate course work or receipt of the bachelor's degree. In the semester in which a student enrolls in the 13<sup>th</sup> credit of graduate coursework, he or she will be considered a graduate student for purposes of tuition, headcount identification, and eligibility for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans whether or not the student has completed the Bachelor's degree. The Committee felt that this proposed policy is financially beneficial to students and could be used as a recruitment tool for application to the BAMA programs.





## DRAFT

### Proposed Revision to Billing Policy of Bachelor's Master's Students

#### Current version of bachelor's-master's policy:

##### Admissions and Administrative Procedures

2. Although admitted to an integrated degree program, students will be considered as undergraduate students for the purposes of tuition, financial aid, and headcount identification until completion of 120 credits of satisfactory work. Upon meeting that requirement, students will be considered graduate students for purposes of tuition, headcount identification, and eligibility for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans. A graduate transcript will be initiated for the students at the 120 credit-hour threshold

#### Proposed Revision to bachelor's-master's policy

- 2.—Although admitted to an integrated degree program, students will be considered as undergraduate students for the purposes of tuition, financial aid, and headcount identification until completion of 12 credits of graduate course work or receipt of the bachelor's degree. In the semester in which a student enrolls in the 13<sup>th</sup> credit of graduate coursework, he or she will be considered a graduate student for purposes of tuition, headcount identification, and eligibility for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans whether or not the student has completed the bachelor's degree. ~~A graduate transcript will be initiated for the students at the 120 credit-hour threshold~~

Students' progress through the combined program will be reviewed in the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education to ensure timely completion of the undergraduate degree. Academic advisors of bachelor's-master's programs and students themselves should also attend to course enrollment choices that lead to timely completion of undergraduate requirements.

#### Rationale for revision

The University is interested in recruiting students into bachelor's-master's programs. At the same time, it must ensure that there is a clear enforceable policy in place to prevent a student from taking the entire master's degree while paying undergraduate tuition. The current approach has been to use accumulated undergraduate credits of bachelor's-master's students to establish the student's status. However, this method has several problems:

- 1) It reflects a somewhat outdated perspective on undergraduate students' college career. It does not match the increasingly broad set of circumstances through which students acquire more credits than they need to complete a degree (e.g., non-applicable credits through change of major; college credit earned in high school including AP credit; transfer coursework, double major, study abroad, etc.);
- 2) There has been no effort to bring academic advisors into the conversation with students BEFORE the higher charges begin to appear on bills, creating confusion and ill will for students; and
- 3) Only students in these combined degree programs are subject to such charges for taking more than 120 undergraduate credits while other students can accumulate an unlimited number of undergraduate credits.

The proposed approach, modeled after others in the SUNY system, focuses on the graduate credits accumulated. Because 12 credits of coursework can be applied to both the undergraduate

degree and graduate degrees, the 13<sup>th</sup> graduate credit is a logical point at which to begin charging graduate tuition. (SUNY Policy prevents the University from “splitting” charges between the graduate and undergraduate rates, and financial aid may only be applied in a given semester at the undergraduate or graduate rates.)

**Attachment #3**

**UAC Bill 200809-5**  
**Passed 2/5/09**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the following text describing policy for admission to and the granting of a second Bachelor's degree be approved by the University Senate.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to Interim President George M. Philip for approval.
3. That the revision take effect for the Fall, 2009 semester.

**Second Bachelor's Degree**

Admission

Only students who possess a four year degree from an accredited institution may apply for a second Bachelor's degree. Applicants for a second Bachelor's degree must specify the major they wish to complete. Undergraduate Admissions will process the applications and forward them to a designated individual in the department for review when complete. Students who are not admitted to the major for which they have applied will not be admitted to the university. The deadline for applying for fall admission is the preceding July 1<sup>st</sup> and for spring admission is the preceding December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete all requirements for the major to be awarded a second Bachelor's degree. It is expected that the majority of a student's coursework in any given semester will be consistent with requirements in that major. Registration for subsequent semesters will not be allowed if progress in meeting degree requirements cannot be demonstrated. The option of a double major is not available. Students are not required to and may not elect to complete a minor as part of the program for their second Bachelor's degree. Students are not required to complete the general education requirements, other than the upper-level writing course, in order to be awarded a second Bachelor's degree. Students must satisfy both the University residency requirements and the major residency requirements. Students earning a second Bachelor's degree are not eligible for "Latin" honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude). Requests to change majors must be processed through Undergraduate Admissions. Students who have already been admitted for a second Bachelor's degree will be subject to the rules in place at the time of their admission.

Admission to a combined Second Bachelor's/Master's Degree

Although admitted to an integrated degree program, students will be considered as undergraduate students for the purposes of tuition, financial aid, and headcount identification until completion of 12 credits of graduate course work or receipt of the second bachelor's degree. In the semester in which a student enrolls in the 13<sup>th</sup> credit of graduate coursework, he or she will be considered a graduate student for purposes of tuition, headcount identification, and eligibility for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans whether or not the student has completed the bachelor's degree.

Rationale

Although it is generally in the interest of a student to pursue a graduate degree after having completed a Bachelor's degree or to take additional coursework at the undergraduate level without undertaking another full set of degree requirements to gain entry to a new profession or to graduate school, there are cases where earning a second Bachelor's degree has particular value to a student. In these rare cases, the university may admit students to a particular major, provided that the major department itself agrees to admit the student. Students who are admitted for a second degree become eligible to apply for financial aid.

The Undergraduate Bulletin does not address these issues. UAC believes that specific policy is needed. Furthermore, the Office of Admissions has specifically requested policy for this group of students as evaluating their applications is very time-consuming.

**Attachment #4**

David F. Andersen, Chair  
Distinguished Service Professor  
David.andersen@Albany.edu

135 Western Avenue  
Albany, NY 12222  
518-442-5258

To: Marjorie Pryse, Dean of Graduate Studies

Copy: Jon Bartow, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies  
Jeff Straussman, Dean Rockefeller College  
John Delano, Chair of University Senate  
Laurence Kranich, Chair of Graduate Academic Council (GAC)  
Reed Hoyt, Chair of University Planning and Policy Council (UPC)

From: David Andersen, Chair of Public Administration and Policy

Subject: Proposed Suspension of Admission to MAPAP

Date: December 18, 2008

During the summer and fall of 2008, the department of Public Administration and Policy, working in conjunction with the University-wide public policy faculty, crafted a proposal to combine the current Master of Arts in Public Affairs and Policy (MAPAP) Program within the MPA program. The proposal itself containing (1) background and rationale, (2) a summary of the features of the redesigned masters program, (3) a discussion of transitional issues to support current students in the pipeline, and (4) a list of required actions to make the proposal happen is attached to this memo. This proposal has gone through the following steps of faculty-led deliberation and discussion:

**Summer 2008:** Original proposal discussed and developed within department of Public Administration and Policy.

**August 7, 2008:** Resolution in principle to move forward passed by department of Public Administration and Policy with further refinements recommended to departmental design committee. During this process, the department made several amendments to the original proposal and directed a drafting committee to move toward a formal resolution.

**September 24, 2008:** Formal proposal to combine programs (see attachment) accepted by department of Public Administration and Policy with recommendation to refer discussion to the Public Policy faculty for discussion and comment. The MAPAP program is administered by the department of Public Administration and Policy, but many of the substantive concentrations and specific courses in the degree program are offered in conjunction with the Public Policy faculty and this degree is cross-listed and offered in combination with multiple other degree programs on campus.

**October 29, 2008:** The University-wide public policy faculty, a body of faculty drawn from departments across the University, all of whom contributes to the MAPAP program met to discuss the draft proposal. This University-wide body of faculty expressed a number of procedural and substantive concerns that are now being addressed. Specifically, the public

policy faculty was concerned that all of the many linkages between the MAPAP program and other programs and classes on campus be carefully addressed and changed before any formal action is taken to terminate the program. A list of major senate resolutions that we now believe will be necessary to smoothly transition into the new program is attached to this memo.

Finally, I have attached to this memo a draft of a possible Senate resolution that might be the first of several Senate resolutions needed to make this transition happen as smoothly as possible. I have modeled this resolution after a similar motion to suspend admissions to the Ph.D. in Organizational Studies in December of 2006.

With this memo, I request that you forward this information to the appropriate Senate committees for comment and action.

Attachments:

1. Proposal to Combine Current MAPAP Program within the MPA Program
2. Draft of future possible Senate Motions to implement proposal.
3. Draft of possible Senate Resolution to Suspend Admissions to MAPAP program.

## **Attachment 1: Proposal to Combine Current MAPAP Program within the MPA Program**

**Background and Rationale.** The University at Albany presently maintains two very similar masters programs in the broad area of public administration and policy. The Master of Arts in Public Affairs and Policy (MAPAP) has a focus on substantive policy areas, allowing students to major in policy areas such as Health, Environmental, or Education policy drawing on the strength of faculty located across the campus. The MPA has a primary focus on principles and practices of public management with concentrations in areas such as public finance and budgeting or human resources administration. However, in practice there is considerable overlap between the two programs. Indeed, the existence of “self-designed specializations” within each program allows students in either program to select an area of concentration drawn from the other degree. While the programs do share a majority of their common courses there are several core courses that currently distinguish their respective core curriculums.

Over the summer and fall of 2008 the faculty of the Department of Public Administration and Policy considered a number of options for changing, combining, or re-structuring these two masters programs so as to offer the strengths of both to all students; and to insure that all graduates from the University at Albany receive their degrees from a nationally ranked and accredited program.<sup>1</sup> The department decided that the best pathway forward would be to combine the current MAPAP program within the MPA program, creating a single masters degree program that will have the major strengths of both. We envision that this redesigned program will be attractive to students who would presently apply to either program and will continue to draw on the strengths of the public policy faculty across campus. In addition, a combined program would be more efficient to administer and would provide all students with a stronger, nationally ranked, and accredited masters education.

### **Features of the Redesigned Masters Program include:**

- 1) All advanced (post core) management and policy sequences currently offered in either the MAPAP or MPA will be available to all students in the redesigned MPA program.
- 2) A single set of nationally accredited core classes will support the single masters program.
- 3) The joint BA/MA program will be re-aligned with the revised single masters program within the existing joint BA/MPA program.
- 4) Joint masters, such as MSW/MA and History/MA, will be re-aligned with the revised single masters program.
- 5) All masters students in our department, as well as those students seeking joint or combined degrees, will receive a nationally accredited degree.

### **Transitional Issues to Support Current Students in the Pipeline:**

- 1) Using current advising flexibility, such as “self-designed specializations”, all advanced (post core) sequences offered in either the MAPAP or the MPA can be taken in either degree. This implies that policy sequences can “count” toward the MPA and that management and administration sequences can be applied to the degree programs of current MAPAP students.

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<sup>1</sup> At present, only the MPA degree is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) and this is the degree that is nationally ranked by U.S. News and World Report.



- 2) With the consent of their advisors and the Director of the MAPAP program, students seeking the MAPAP degree may configure the masters essay requirement to be an applied policy exercise. The Director of the MAPAP program will work expeditiously to put in place mechanisms to support this resolution.
- 3) The Department of Public Administration and Policy will petition University Governance to suspend new admission to the MAPAP program. Halting admissions will insure that a minimal number of students are impacted by this change process.
- 4) The Directors of our Masters Degree programs will provide maximum flexibility possible to all students who wish to design their programs to take advantage of these new directions. Innovation is encouraged. Students working with their advisors and the degree program Directors are encouraged to seek new ways to combine advanced specializations, create an applied capstone exercise, and swap or waive existing core requirements. However, such flexibility must be limited to the existing waiver discretion granted by the GAC and must respect NASPAA guidelines for accredited masters programs.
- 5) We have already revised our advertising and recruiting materials so as to reflect “truth in advertising” for current and prospective applicants.
- 6) These changes have been well-received, in general, by the current entering class of both MPA and MAPAP students.
- 7) These changes are in the process of being described to potential applicants and, with several exceptions, students are OK with applying to the single degree program.

#### **Required Actions to Make this Happen:**

- 1) This proposal needs to be discussed with the public policy faculty, and receive their comments, suggestions, and input.
- 2) This proposal needs to be discussed with programs that partner in joint BA/masters programs with Rockefeller College masters programs, to receive their comments, suggestions, and input.
- 3) This proposal needs to be discussed with UAlbany programs that partner in combined masters programs with Rockefeller College masters programs, to receive their comments, suggestions, and input.
- 4) This proposal will be discussed with Albany Law School (joint MA-JD program).
- 5) The Graduate Academic Council and University Planning & Policy Council of the Senate would receive a proposal to discontinue future offering of the MAPAP. This motion would then move to the full Senate.
- 6) Formal proposals for all involved BA/MA and joint masters programs would have to be presented to GAC.
- 7) Off-Campus action as appropriate would be taken with SUNY-Central and the State Education Department.
- 8) Any potential formal changes to the MPA would be pursued separately from and subsequently to the formal dissolution of the MAPAP.

## **Attachment 2: Draft of future possible Senate Motions to implement proposal.**

1. Resolution to Suspend Admissions to the MAPAP (This resolution)
2. Resolution to Modify the structure of the MPA
  - i. Harmonize Expanded MPA with existing MAPAP
  - ii. Addition of a fifth specialization “Substantive Public Policy Areas”
  - iii. References to forthcoming resolutions as necessary
3. Resolution to create a BA in History/Master of Public Administration and discontinue the current BA in History/Master of Public Affairs and Policy
4. Resolution to create a Master of Public Administration/Master of Social Work and discontinue the current Master of Public Affairs and Policy/Master of Social Work
5. Resolution to create a Master of Public Administration/Master of History and discontinue the current Master of Public Affairs and Policy/Master of History

**UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: Graduate Academic Council and University Planning and Policy Council

Date: December 18, 2008

**PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS TO THE  
MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY PROGRAM**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That admission to the Masters of Arts in Public Affairs and Policy be suspended.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.
3. That this take effect upon the President's approval.

**Rationale:**

The GAC and UPC approve the proposed suspension of admission to this program for the reasons stated in Professor Andersen's attached memorandum.