



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

SPONSOR: Safwat Zaky, Vice-Provost Planning & Budget

CONTACT INFO: 416 978-7116, Safwat.zaky@utoronto.ca

DATE: September 1, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 7

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:** School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Excerpt from the terms of reference for the Planning and Budget Committee:

*4.4.2. The Committee advises the Academic Board on the planning and resource implications of plans and proposals to establish, disestablish or significantly restructure academic programs. Implications might include significant planning and budgetary changes within the significant effects on other divisions, the University as a whole and the public.*

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The proposal was approved by School of Graduate Studies Council on May 23, 2006.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This inter-disciplinary program is directed to professional education in two fields of specialization: Social and Economic Policy (domestic), and Global Public Policy. A brief description is provided in the attached Executive Summary.

An initiative in public policy was identified as a priority in the University's Stepping Up plan as well as in earlier planning cycles. Many Divisional plans showed support for such an initiative in their *Stepping UP* plans<sup>1</sup>. A Task Force on Public Policy proposed a model for a School of Public Policy.<sup>2</sup> The Master of Public Policy will be offered in a 20-month format with an eight-month advanced standing option, beginning in September 2007. It is proposed that the program be offered by the School of Public Policy and Governance which will be brought forward to University governance for approval this fall, as an extra-departmental unit with its own budget and authority to offer academic programs, enrol students and administer research grants and a program.

The School will draw on the multiple clusters of policy-oriented research across the University's three campuses. Participating units include eight faculties and departments plus established and new interdisciplinary centres. Initially, core courses would be restricted to those students enrolled in the M.P.P. cohort-based program. However, assuming appropriate future funding, courses would be offered to students enrolled in other programs at the University of Toronto as soon as possible. The Director will report administratively to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and academically to a Council of Deans, chaired by the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science. The Council will oversee all critical academic decisions, including major program changes. The Director will in addition establish a Program Committee to deal with admissions and curriculum development on an on-going basis.

<sup>1</sup> Stepping UP – Synthesis

[http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/userfiles/page\\_attachments/library/6/Stepping\\_Up\\_Synthesis\\_11704\\_3509506.pdf](http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/userfiles/page_attachments/library/6/Stepping_Up_Synthesis_11704_3509506.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Task Force on Public Policy Studies at the University of Toronto, January 2004

<http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Task-Force-on-Public-Policy-Studies---July-2001.html>

Consultations on program plans have been undertaken with interested faculty members and with Chairs of the graduate departments of Economics, Geography, Health Policy Management and Evaluation, History, Information Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Theory and Policy Studies.). Meetings, brainstorming sessions and focus groups have been held with senior members of the Ontario Public Service, federal and municipal governments, graduate students, young professionals and potential partners in the private and voluntary sectors.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

The resources necessary to offer the program (four academic FTE for cross-appointments of senior faculty as well as two FTE staff support) will be provided by a combination of funding from the Academic Initiatives Fund and tuition and BIU revenue generated by student enrolment. The latter will be available from the graduate expansion envelope. The financial plan has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science and by the Planning and Budget Office and the space needed has been arranged through the Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Campus and Facilities Planning.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Planning and Budget Committee recommends to the Academic Board:

THAT the Master of Public Policy program leading to the degree of Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) be established within the Faculty of Arts and Science, commencing September 2007.

## Executive Summary

Drawing on the established strengths and research accomplishments of faculty across the University's three campuses, the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program will facilitate new, collaborative scholarship, teaching and exchange. The MPP will be offered as a 20-month program with an eight-month advanced standing option, both featuring core instruction on a small-group, cohort-based model. Students will take elective courses within two fields of specialization (domestic and global), each of which cuts across policy sectors. In each stream, students may choose electives in a variety of policy sectors, such as health, education, cities, and environment. Integrating seminars, led by academics and bringing in visiting public sector leaders, and Internship placements will be further defining features of the program.

The objective of the MPP program is to prepare professionals and leaders for the next generation of policy challenges characterized by increasing complexity due to such factors as: the cross-cutting nature of policy issues; unprecedented public demand for transparency and accountability; technologies that enhance access to information and reduce time frames for decision making cycles; and the changing roles of politicians, public servants and the public in policy making. This objective is achieved through a program structure that brings together scholarship with real life exchange with the world of public policy. The program will attract students who aspire to work in senior roles in government, the broader public, private and community sectors, or internationally.

The Master of Public Policy designation is used internationally by programs with similar content and objectives. The U of T MPP constitutes a distinctive offering in Canada, where Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs are the norm. The intellectual centre of gravity for the U of T MPP lies in policy analysis and development within complex public organizations and policy networks. It includes a strategic approach to the implementation of policy that emphasizes the importance of focusing on objectives, and on linkages across sectors and organizations both within and beyond government.

The MPP proposal has been developed through extensive external consultation and through consultation with Deans and Chairs of the graduate departments of Economics, Geography, Health Policy Management and Evaluation, History, Information Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Theory and Policy Studies. Consultation with the relevant senior administrators has also been conducted.

The MPP is one of five interdisciplinary academic priorities identified in the University's *Stepping Up* plan for support at the institutional level. Drawing on existing graduate faculty members in the participating units, it will foster inter-disciplinary collaboration. Participating departments will be fully compensated; this will allow for new appointments and visitorships, thereby enriching current program offerings.

Beginning in 2007/8, the 20-month MPP has a planned intake of 20 new students annually; the eight-month advanced standing option will admit 10 students annually, beginning in 2008/9. The School will be located in the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Building on the St. George campus; this building is being renovated to meet the needs of the MPP program. Faculty, students, visitors and staff will work in a wireless networked environment taking advantage of the existing U of T Campus network. Students and faculty will have access to the analytic software provided through computing for Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS). The School, in collaboration with University Libraries, is committed to supporting the faculty's research initiatives.