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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** March 22, 2010
FROM Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/1
RE: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Name Change of Master of Public Policy Program to the School of Public Policy (SCUP 10-24)

At its March 10, 2010 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the name change of Master of Public Policy Program to the School of Public Policy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Motion

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change of Master of Public Policy Program to the School of Public Policy.

encl.

c: N. Olewiler



FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



MEMO

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ATTENTION Jon Driver, SCUP, Chair

FROM Lesley Cormack Dean, FASS

RE Conversion of Public Policy Program into
the School of Public Policy (revision)

DATE March 15, 2010

Please find enclosed a proposal from the Public Policy Program to convert their program into a School. I believe that this is an excellent proposal, for all the reasons listed in the document and it has my strongest endorsement.

This proposed change fits into the FASS 3-year plan. The Public Policy Program participates in the SFU strategic areas of health and environment. It is an interdisciplinary program, which combines innovative research with strong community connections. All this is part of the SFU 3-year plan and vision. In the FASS 3-year plan, we list as a new program development for the 2010-13 period:

Work with the Public Policy program to create a School of Public Policy, in order to take full advantage of the synergies across the university, to allow national and international visibility, and to facilitate fundraising and recruitment.

The Public Policy Program already performs all the functions of a school; this would simply recognize a situation already in existence.

In terms of resource implications, there would be no new resources needed or expected. This move would greatly increase the visibility of a flagship program. Finally, changing the designation to School would enhance fundraising opportunities substantially.

Lesley Cormack
Dean
LC/jl

Cc: Nancy Olewiler, Director, Public Policy Program



OFFICE OF THE DEAN
JAN 27 2009
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MEMO

To: Lesley Cormack
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science
From: Nancy Olewiler, Director
Date: 25 January 2010
Re: Proposal to Convert the Graduate Public Policy Program to the
Graduate School of Public Policy

At its meeting of 11 January 2010, the members of the Public Policy Program unanimously approved a motion to convert our unit from the Public Policy Program to the Graduate School of Public Policy.

I hope you would support this proposal and take it forward to SCUP as soon as possible. I append the proposal as it provides the background to support our conversion from a Program to a School.

Thank you,

Nancy Olewiler

Proposal to Convert the Master of Public Policy Program to the School of Public Policy

Background and Rationale

The Master of Public Policy Program (MPP) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science was approved by Senate in September 2002 and began full operation in the 2003-04 academic year with the appointment of a Director (seconded from Economics) and hiring of one FTE junior faculty, a CRC tier I Chair, a senior policy professor, secondment of a full professor, and our Program Manager. The first student intake was for September 2003. The program is 'stand alone'; it never was part of another department. The Master of Public Policy Program created a two-year cohort-based full-time course of graduate studies leading to the Masters of Public Policy (MPP) degree. We are a 'premium fee' program because when the MPP was created, graduate enrollment levels were frozen and no incremental per capita funding was available from the provincial government. A research centre – The Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) was also created when we came into existence. It is devoted to enhancing public policy research at SFU and connecting to the wider policy community beyond the university through its workshops, policy seminars, discussion papers, and invited speakers. We are also the departmental home to the Institute for Critical Studies in Gender and Health (Olena Hankivsky is the co-director), and another research initiative, ACT, Adaptation to Climate Change.

The program is highly successful by any metric. Our FTE faculty complement has grown through the realization of a number of opportunities to 8 tenured faculty members who have Public Policy as their home department.¹ We are fortunate also to have five highly qualified policy practitioners and researchers as adjunct professors who teach some of our elective courses. We are at full capacity in the MPP program given our teaching resources with approximately 60 full-time graduate students (30 per each cohort of our two-year program). Each year we receive over 150 applications to our program. The appendix presents data for the past five years on enrollment, number of faculty and graduation rates.² The Federal Government, a major employer of graduates and summer interns, actively seeks out our MPP students because of the strength of the skills and abilities that they bring to their work. So too do many NGOs, provincial governments, crown corporations and business organizations. The number of graduates selected for elite government programs intended to quickly advance promising young professionals has been proportionately higher than other competing graduate programs, and senior government managers have offered frequent testimonials attesting to the extraordinary quality of graduates as employees in an increasingly

¹ Professors Andrew Petter and Maureen Maloney will be joining our unit on July 1, 2010. Their appointments will bring to 10 the number of faculty who have Public Policy as their home department.

²Data was not yet available for 2009-2010. In 2009-2010, we added another faculty member and our Director was transferred from Economics to Public Policy on a permanent basis. Also note that graduate headcount is for the combined two cohorts.

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competitive environment for training public policy specialists. A number of our graduates have gone on to PhD programs in a variety of fields (Political Science, Public Policy, Health).

Our program is very challenging. We require students to complete 14 courses (5 credits each) and a major research project. Our goal is to graduate at least 80 percent of our cohort after the four semesters of courses plus one semester for the required co-op internship. We have met or exceeded that target every year. One reason for this success and the corresponding reputation as a superior program is that the program is academically rigorous, cross-disciplinary and professionally relevant. Whereas many programs emphasize technical and applied skills of immediate application to the work place, MPP students also receive solid foundations in economics and political science, thus ensuring they are strong in the two disciplines most important for policy studies and analyses. The offerings in these courses are provided by respected and experienced faculty who tailor them to provide an integrated body of cross disciplinary knowledge and analytical skills with clear relevance to modern policy problems. The third area of emphasis is research methodologies. We require four courses in methodology – quantitative and qualitative analysis as well as policy analysis. These courses are augmented by electives offered by our department or other graduate departments at SFU (or UBC through the Western Deans Agreement) and direct hands-on practical work. Our graduates are grounded in all aspects of effective policy making. This is capped by a major research and analysis project - the capstone. Taken together, these requirements are widely recognized as superior to those in many comparable programs, thus putting the program in a strong position to compete and succeed over the long term.

A clear strength of the program is the excellence and diversity of the faculty. Practical, first rate senior government experience is represented as is many years of academic success in scholarly research. Our faculty members are highly multi-disciplinary; we come from economics, political science, and psychology. Faculty members have successful track records in advising and working for governments on difficult policy problems, some in senior government policy management roles, and are able to provide students with the benefits of such experience. Our research and experience cover fields from the local to the international level. Our colleagues are involved in research projects and policy analysis related to all levels of government in Canada and in the UK, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Africa, the Ukraine, Southeast Asia and Latin America. Our areas of expertise encompass a range of policy issues the address the environment, aboriginal peoples, income disparity, governance, immigration, health, diversity, ageing, education, policy innovation and more. We also engage in extensive media-based comment and analysis on topical policy problems and many have been directly or indirectly responsible for policy innovations adopted by governments. This

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track record adds greatly to the capacity of the program to attract students, gain the respect of policy activists and leaders, and to make a difference in policy outcomes. These together add greatly to our reputation and put the program in a strong position in terms of potential for long term success. Three of our faculty, John Richards, Jon Kesselman, and Doug McArthur have won the SFU President's Award for Service to the University through Public Affairs and Media Relations.

Our faculty have very active research agendas recognized by significant national awards and research grants. Professor Hankivsky is a Michael Smith Foundation Senior Scholar and holds a CIHR Research Chair. Professor Kesselman is a Canada Research Chair in Public Finance. We have been successful in obtaining SSHRC and other major grants and are affiliated with research groups and think tanks such as the BC Pacific Institute for Climate Studies, Institute for Research on Public Policy, Canadian Policy Research Network, Metropolis BC, and C.D. Howe Institute.

A host of reasons support converting our Program into a School at this time::

- Our faculty complement is large enough in size and disciplinary coverage to sustain our outstanding MPP program and to explore additional graduate level degree programs such as joint degrees with other departments/faculties and targeted PhD programs. For example, we are in discussion with the Health Sciences Faculty on a joint masters program in Health Policy. It would be the one of the only programs in the country. We are also in discussion with Economics to create a masters degree in Economic Policy. Joint PhD programs with REM and Health are also possibilities. These graduate programs have the potential to further enhance SFU's reputation for its innovative multi-disciplinary programs.
- We are multi-disciplinary; our faculty brings expertise from the fields of political science, economics, and psychology, and soon to add, law. Our students come from a large number of undergraduate and graduate disciplines in social science, humanities, science, applied sciences, law, and business. They reflect the entire spectrum of university education.
- We have a proven record of performance. We graduate in a very timely way high quality students who have been very successful. Demand for the program is strong and will remain so given the age structure in the public sector is skewed toward employees over age 50. The growth of public policy schools in Canada has created greater awareness of the value of this degree, among both potential students and employers.

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- The School designation would enhance the university's stature as well as our own. It is the norm in Canada and the United States that multi-disciplinary units that offer graduate degrees in public policy are designated as Schools of Public Policy. Among our competitors in Canada, we are the only 'program'; the rest are all schools. While we have attracted high quality graduate students, our designation as a program lowers our profile and can be confusing. We are often asked by prospective students, employers of our students, and external policy experts what department we are in. They find our title confusing; they have difficulty locating us on the SFU web pages and directories. Our designation as a single degree program implies to the external community that we are a subsidiary of another department or an entity without permanence. Sustaining the name Master of Public Policy Program limits our ability to offer additional degree programs beyond the MPP. There remains some confusion even within SFU as Continuing Studies once had a Public Policy Program. For this reason, we have begun referring to ourselves as the 'Graduate Public Policy Program'.
- Public policy research and outreach as well as multi-disciplinary education and research are components of SFU's strategic plans.
- Becoming a school would offer considerable scope to attract donors interested in supporting the university by endowing a chair and/or having a naming opportunity. Donors will want their name on a chair in a school or to name the school, not a program.
- Changing our name from the Master of Public Policy Program to the School of Public Policy would entail no immediate budgetary implications. We require no additional faculty or staff. We are very efficient with one of the largest graduate programs relative to our full-time equivalent faculty size.

In summary, we believe SFU will benefit from the greater profile and recognition afforded to our unit as a School rather than a Program. We will work with our Senior Administrators and other departments to continue to develop priority areas of excellence and innovation in public policy education and research.

APPENDIX: Data on Master of Public Policy Program

	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05
Graduate AFTE (Annualized)	81.1	83.5	78.1	87.0	63.0
Graduate Headcount (Fall)		62	58	64	46
Graduation Rate (Headcount)		21	26	23	11
Faculty (Headcount)	6	5	4	4	2

