



UNM

SCHOOL of PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

6/7/10

School of Public Administration Response to recommendations made by the Academic Review Team:

1. SPA, as the public administration program at the state's flagship institution, should be comparing itself with peer institutions, such as Arizona State University and the University of Colorado at Denver.

We agree with the review team. For the past three years, SPA has grown substantially. Its student body has grown by about 40 percent. It has also added four tenure track Assistant Professors in the last three years. While the school's faculty is still small, and its staff and other resources extremely small compared to schools of public administration at ASU and UC-Denver, we have made progress in establishing SPA as a peer of these schools.

2. Create and implement a transparent and fair SPA promotion and tenure process.

The P&T policy document has been finalized and is expected to be approved by the tenured faculty in the next few weeks.

3. Include student representation in faculty and Advisory Board meetings.

The faculty will discuss and act upon this recommendation in the Fall 2010 semester. The Director will communicate this recommendation to the chair of the Advisory Board for the Board's consideration.

4. Build the MPA concentration in health administration and policy immediately and use affiliated faculty especially at the intermediate level to provide mentoring and other professional assistance to the new junior faculty.

This recommendation has been implemented. A new Health Policy and Administration concentration will be offered effective Fall 2010.

5. Create a research colloquium to encourage faculty and students to share their research. Such interaction contributes to building a “community of scholars.”

This recommendation has been implemented. SPA concluded its first series of four colloquia lectures in the Spring semester of 2010. Professor Chih-Wei Hsieh leads the colloquium series and is currently working on a schedule of speakers/presenters for the next academic year.

6. Increase administrative support for the SPA Director.

We agree with this recommendation. SPA needs additional resources to implement this recommendation.

7. As a long-term goal, create a Ph.D. program in collaboration with other related programs on campus. Institutional visibility and reputation are greatly enhanced by a quality doctoral program.

The faculty has considered this recommendation and has decided not to pursue it at this time.

8. Increase the representation of the SPA Advisory Board to include members from the private and non-profit sectors.

This is already underway. The Advisory Board will be reconstituted and expanded in the Fall 2010 semester. The Director has been working with the chair and the members of the Advisory Board to develop the list of individuals to invite to be new members of the board. This year, in working closely with the development officer and the chair of the SPA advisory Board, we have developed a vision and mission statement for the advisory board as well as strategic objectives and membership expectations for Board members.

9. Explore the possibility of mounting the MPA program fully online. This could be achieved in cooperation with Distance Education Programs & Services.

The faculty has been engaged in continuing discussion on this topic for more than a year and carefully considered it at its last retreat. The faculty continues to explore alternative delivery methods of instruction. During the next academic year (2009-2010) our faculty

will be engaged in even more intense discussion of the challenges of delivering the full degree program to students at distance sites in Northern and Central New Mexico.

10. Maximize the benefits of impressive and strategically placed SPA alumni. For example, as one advisory board member commented, “we have to link our alums to the ‘pitch” [promoting and generating foundation monies for SPA].

We agree. Both the Director and faculty recognize the potential for greater alumni support, both programmatically and financially. The Director, the School’s part time development officer and the Advisory Board are moving forward with plans to increase the visibility of the SPA among its alumni. Newsletters and annual fundraising letters are regularly sent out to our alums. The Director continues to work closely with a part-time development officer to further develop our private fund raising capacity. The Director regularly meets with alums identified as potential financial contributors. Membership in the Director’s Circle, established in 2007, continues to grow. We are currently in the process of reconstituting and expanding the advisory Board. The goal for the coming year is to continue the efforts to further strengthen the school’s alumni relations and fundraising efforts.

11. Re-evaluate the process and motivation for delivering a significant proportion of MPA courses via ITV.

This has been a matter of on going discussion by the SPA faculty. Issues and challenges involved in delivering the full degree program to students in Northern and Central New Mexico are complex and difficult. SPA has a long history of serving students living and working outside the Albuquerque area. It began delivering the MPA degree at an off campus site at the Santa Fe graduate center in 1974. It began offering MPA courses at distance sites through the Division of Continuing Education (predecessor of the Extended University) in 1980. Delivery modalities have evolved from actual on-site delivery of the program in Santa Fe in the 1970s to delivery of the program to a larger number of distance sites (Gallup, Farmington, Taos, Santa Fe, Los Alamos and several more) via ITV. As the flagship university in the State, UNM has a special role in providing opportunity high quality graduate professional education in public administration to students across the state, especially in northern and central parts of the state. Offering the whole degree program to distance sites without sacrificing quality would be a resource and time

intensive undertaking. SPA faculty will undertake a thorough review of alternatives during the next academic year.

12. Collaboratively establish written SPA policies and procedures that center on faculty governance (for example, policies and procedures as they relate to faculty annual review, recruitment and selection, and T&P as noted above).

The P&T policy document has been drafted and is expected to be approved by the tenured faculty shortly. The Director and the faculty will develop and approve “bylaws” (policies and procedures for governance) during the Fall 2010 semester.