

School of Public Policy Newsletter

Oregon State University – January 4, 2011

Announcements

Topics

Welcome Back!

Birthdays

Lori Cramer - 01/04



Welcome Back

WELCOME BACK! Hope you all had a restful and happy holiday break. I have a bit of news about things that happened over the break.

News about the Faculty Searches: During the break, the two search committees worked diligently to get through the 400+ applications. Thanks to the hard work of Laura Relyea and Mecila cross we were totally organized. More than 20 phone interviews were conducted with top candidates for all four positions.

The top three candidates for the Public Policy/Public Administration position were identified and contacted: Erik Lindquist, Adam Eckerd, and Jennifer Sykes. Unfortunately, Adam Eckerd has accepted a job at the University of Kansas and our fourth candidate, Mark Buntaine, also has two job offers in hand.

The files for these candidates should be available in each of the program offices for your review.

We are currently scheduling on-campus visits for the Public Policy position for the first half of January. Erik Lindquist will be here January 10-11 and we'll get you the interview schedule as soon as possible. We'll know more about visits from Mark Buntaine and Jennifer Sykes early next week. We hope that everyone will pitch in on lunches, dinners, transportation, etc. as well as show up for presentations and meetings. We should all be ready to "pitch" our programs, the School, Corvallis, etc. to each of the candidates!

As you probably know, the Economics meetings will be held the first weekend of January, and several folks will be interviewing more than 20 additional candidates at the meeting for the other three positions (no Economists applied for the Public Policy position). Scott Akins, Chair of the Law and Crime Position as well as committee member for the other three positions, has agreed to attend the Economics meeting as part of the interviewing team. Once the team returns from the meetings, the committees will meet quickly to identify top candidates for the other three positions (Quantitative Policy Analysis, Advanced Quantitative Methods, and Law and Crime). We will then begin scheduling on-campus interviews for those candidates.

News about the Category I Proposal for a School of Public Policy: The completed Category I proposal has been submitted through the online system along with six strong letters from on- and off-campus supporters. (We only received a couple of liaison comments and they were both favorable and wished us luck.) I had a preliminary meeting with Gary Beach (Curriculum Proposal Coordinator), Bruce Rettig (Associate Dean of the Graduate School), Walt Loveland (Chair of the Graduate Council), and Greg Perry (representing the Curriculum Council) to review our proposal. I didn't receive any constructive critique of our proposal, although they believe it will be important to show cost savings through the reorganization (and I will make sure that we can show cost savings). Loveland and Perry expressed some skepticism about the level of support for the new school and I believe their own experiences with reorganization in their colleges are coloring their review of our proposal. If the Executive Council refers the proposal to the full Faculty Senate, it will be critical for us all to be at that meeting to listen to others' concerns as well as show support for our emerging school. Let's also continue to make changes that improve the education of students and increase the quality of our scholarship so that when the discussion comes up we will have good examples of the benefits of our School.

News about the Category I Proposal for a PhD Program in Public Policy: Now that School proposal has been launched, it's back to the PhD proposal. I'll send along a copy of the latest draft for your review. After I integrate any comments/address any concerns, I'll send the proposal out for liaison hopefully by the end of January. I'll also start soliciting letters of support from all the Deans that worked with us last summer. Once the liaison comes in and any changes are necessary, the proposal will get submitted for review. This review will be a bit more extensive and require a library review as well as an external review. I was hoping we could do the external review this summer, but it might be postponed until fall 2011.

New School Projects:

1. The Economics Program had a very successful first term using **undergrad tutors** for their Micro and Macro survey courses. Not only were many students helped in these courses, but more undergraduates started hanging out in the Economics department again. Let's see if it makes sense to implement similar tutoring programs in Political Science and Sociology. Contact your liaison and undergraduate coordinator with ideas about how to make this work for your program.
2. As I mentioned in the all-School faculty meeting, I'd like to meet with each of you this term to review your **position description** and also talk with you about what help/resources/information you could use to increase your scholarship (see items 4 and 5 below). Look for a request for a meeting soon.
3. We should start thinking about getting a **School web page** designed. One of the things I'd like to include on the web page is streaming interviews with different faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students talking about their research and/or education in the School. Our communication media folks said they would be glad to film/edit some interviews we could use for our web page (and probably the OSU page). If you have other ideas and/or interests in the web page or other communication media (e.g., face book), please let me know. I'd like to get a committee working on the page as soon as possible.
4. At the Chairs and Directors last meeting of the fall, we talked about how we could use the offer of resources from the Provost for training for **external grant writing**. The Dean is probably going to offer a grant-writing workshop/training for social scientists (separate from the arts and humanities) that will include some kind of stipend for participating and/or writing a grant. He is interested in having EVERYONE in the College of Liberal Arts write an external grant. So, start thinking about how some resources will allow you to improve/increase your scholarship – you might ask for money to release you from teaching, a research assistant, travel support, and/or research supplies and equipment. And, start thinking about a fundable project – we can talk more during our one-on-one conversations.
5. And, I'd also like to formulate a committee to begin shaping our own **School research stipend program** using our own resources; if you're interested, let me know and we'll get started right away.

We're going to have another busy term with all the candidates on campus – thanks, in advance, for your continued work in making the School of Public Policy a success.

