



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
*The Graduate School*  
*G-1 Communications*  
*Box 353770*  
*Seattle, Washington 98195-3770*

*Telephone: (206)543-5900*  
*Fax: (206)685-3234*

November 28, 2012

To: Sandra O. Archibald, Dean, Evans School of Public Affairs

From: Gary Farris, Interim Vice Provost and Dean  
Rebecca Aanerud, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

RE: Review of the Evans School of Public Affairs M.S. and Ph.D. (2011-2012)

This memo outlines the recommendations from the five-year review of the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees offered by the Evans School of Public Affairs. Detailed comments on the program can be found in the documents that were part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee, school, and administrators (December 7, 2011)
- Evans School self-study (January 11, 2012)
- Graduate & Professional Student Senate Survey Report (February 27, 2012)
- Site visit (March 2, 2012)
- Review committee report (April 3, 2012)
- Evans School response to the review committee report (May 1, 2012)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (June 7, 2012)

The review committee consisted of:

David T. Takeuchi, Professor and Associate Dean, UW School of Social Work and  
Department of Sociology (Committee Chair)  
Rosemary O'Leary, Distinguished Professor, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University

This review was the first review of both the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management, approved in 2006, and the Master of Science, approved in 2010.

A subcommittee of the Graduate School Council presented findings and recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on June 7, 2012. After discussion, Council recommended continuing status for the M.S. and Ph.D. program, with the next review to be scheduled in coordination with

the next school-wide program review. Specific comments and recommendations regarding the degree program include the following:

### Program Strengths

As indicated in the review committee's report, the school has achieved its original objective of preparing graduates for public service and/or academic positions and is making progress in developing a model Ph.D. program. Specific strengths include:

- The Dean's strong commitment to the program;
- Outstanding faculty reputation for scholarship and teaching;
- Graduate student quality and passion for their research areas;
- Recruitment focus on students with economics and policy analysis backgrounds, and subsequent incorporation of these perspectives into dissertation work;
- Student completion rates and time to degree.

### Challenges & Risks

The program review documentation outlines detailed review committee recommendations and program responses. Specific challenges the Council wishes to note include:

- *Cohort Size*: The program targets increases in its cohort size. The review committee suggested that the school seriously assess faculty capacity to handle this increase, both in terms of total faculty numbers and in terms of the potential disproportionate burden on faculty in certain focus areas. The school notes that it has taken appropriate steps and will continue to give attention to these, both as part of the school's strategic and fiscal planning process and by giving attention to the balance of areas of focus among incoming students;
- *Student Diversity*: The program is too new and enrollment too small to make definitive assessments about student diversity. Given the field and the national student pool, the program will need to give ongoing attention to attracting underrepresented students;
- *Student Concerns about Core Courses*: Students expressed some concerns about overlap of doctoral coursework with the master's level curriculum. The school will need to monitor the results of increasing waivers for specific courses, an approach it will take when appropriate to a student's background;
- *Post Second Year*: The committee suggested more structured opportunities for students after their second year. The school proposed offering students more seminar invitations, teaching assistant opportunities, and special workshops.
- *Elective Offerings*: The program provides a variety of experiences through independent study/readings courses, which is an effective strategy for the small number of students and faculty involved. As the program grows it will need to monitor this approach.

### Areas of Concurrence

The school fully embraced the observations and recommendations of the review committee. In its response to the review committee report, the school provides updates and clarifications on each major recommendation. The school also outlines steps it had already taken as of June, 2012, as well as those it plans to take in response to specific review committee comments.

Graduate School Council Recommendations

The Graduate School Council endorses the review committee's comments and recommendations and supports the Evans School's responses and follow-up actions. It recommends continuing status for the M.S. and Ph.D. programs, with subsequent review to be included in the next school-wide academic program review. In addition, the Council:

- Commends the Evans School for its significant accomplishments with the Ph.D. program through Spring Quarter, 2012;
- Encourages the program to continue its work to support student diversity;
- Underscores the need to offer more structure for students after their second year.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

cc: Ana Mari Cauce, Provost  
Douglas J. Wadden, Executive Vice Provost  
Members of the Evans School Review Committee  
Members of the Graduate School Council  
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School  
GPSS President

