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July 25, 2008

To: Phyllis Wise, Provost
Douglas Wadden, Executive Vice Provost for
Academic Affairs and Planning
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean
James Soto Antony, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Soto Antony".

RE: Review of the International Development Policy and Management
Graduate Certificate Program

On November 1, 2007, the Graduate School Council met with the Chair of the team that reviewed the International Development Policy and Management Graduate Certificate Program Priti Ramamurthy, Associate Professor, Women Studies, and with Sandra Archibald, Dean, and Linda Lake, Assistant Dean, of the Evans School of Public Affairs. The program review process included a meeting to discuss the committee's charge on February 5, 2007, between members of the review committee and administrators involved in the review. The site visit held on February 26-27, 2007 included the external committee member, Professor Deborah Brautigam, International Development Program in the School of International Service, American University.

At the November 1 Council meeting Associate Professor Ramamurthy summarized the findings and recommendations of the Review Committee Report (submitted April 5, 2007). The committee recommended continuation of the graduate certificate program, with a review in five years. This is an innovative, interdisciplinary program that has the potential to become a center of excellence and could help increase the national and international visibility of the Evans School. Since the program's inception, several changes have occurred in leadership, organization and staffing. The committee commended junior and part-time faculty for assuming program oversight and praised their commitment to meet students' needs for professional development. The committee recommended the appointment of a tenured faculty member as the Chair to provide leadership and to champion the program, and the appointment of an administrator to provide program support. The curriculum has undergone minimal change since the program's inception. The curriculum is demanding for a certificate program and the committee recommended that it be restructured. Restructuring may help increase the completion rate and attract students in other academic units and mid-career professionals. Enrollment could be broadened to target students outside the region which would diversity the pool of applicants, and the program might consider a foreign language requirement.

Dean Archibald indicated the Evans School is committed to the graduate certificate program. Several of the committee's recommendations have been implemented with the intent of increasing the quality of students and to improve the program completion rate. The program's requirements were reduced from 21 to 15 credits, the seminar series was eliminated, core courses were reduced from three to two courses, and the practicum was discontinued and will be replaced by student internships. A remaining issue is the transformation of the seminar series into an international capstone experience. Additionally, a tenured faculty member was appointed as the program Director, a five person advisory committee was established, and staff support will be assumed by the School's Student Affairs office. A separate web site will be developed for visibility and to provide a separate identity for the program. The School decided not to pursue establishing a Master's degree in international affairs, but will keep the option open for future consideration.

The Council recommended continuation of the program for 10 years with an interim report in five years (2012-2013). The report should specifically address: (1) how the certificate program fits within the Evans School's academic vision, (2) whether a meaningful capstone experience for students has been developed, (3) whether a long-term recruitment plan has been developed to increase the diversity of students in the program, and (4) the plan for achieving a balance of resource sharing for the program's long-term sustainability.

We concur with these comments and recommendations

- c: Sandra Archibald, Dean, Evans School of Public Affairs
- Linda Lake, Assistant Dean, Evans School of Public Affairs
- Sanjeev Khagram, Associate Professor, Evans School of Public Affairs
- Jake Faleschini, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- IDCP Review Committee
- Graduate School Council
- Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School