February 14, 2008

To: Karen Campbell, Chair, Committee on Educational Programs

From: Kathryn Anderson, Director, Public Policy Studies Program

Subject: Curriculum Revision for Public Policy Studies

I attach a proposed revision to the Public Policy Studies Program. This revision was approved by the Advisory Board to the program. The members of this board are Professor Carol Swain (Political Science and Law), Professor Gary Jensen (Sociology), and Professor Michael K. McLendon (Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations). Our reasons for recommending the curriculum change are outlined below.

- First and foremost, we feel that the current curriculum does not sufficiently focus on the public sector. Students can complete the program by taking only courses that facilitate the evaluation of public policy without actually learning how the public sector works. For this reason, we want to require students to take two public policy courses offered at Peabody College: HOD 1800, Public Policy, and HOD 2820, Public Finance. Students can take Public Finance in the economics department, but we do not expect many of our majors to take this advanced economics course instead of HOD 2820.

- Second, we feel that majors should take at least one course above the introductory level in the three major social science groups: political science, economics, and sociology or anthropology. Currently, students are required to take Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 231); however, this course does not involve applications that are relevant to public policy. It is a gateway to more advanced courses in economics (courses 250 and higher), but students can learn how economics is applied to public policy analysis by taking courses that are less technical and numbered below 250. Most policy majors also fulfill the social change requirement by taking SOC 102 which is a low level course in sociology, but it is available every semester. We recommend that students take any 200 level course in economics, political science, and sociology or anthropology with a few exceptions.

- Third, we are offering our first public policy studies course this semester – PPS 295. We want to formally include this course in the curriculum and to reduce the number of required course hours in the track area to 12. PPS 295 is our capstone seminar, and students do a research project through this course in their track area.

- Finally, we want the major to be more flexible. Over time we have increased the courses that fulfill specific requirements for the major; however, we still have difficulty getting our students into these approved classes, and we regularly make exceptions to the rules. The proposed curriculum would give students more
choice in areas that are relevant for the study of public policy and would eliminate the enrollment problems that our students currently face.

We feel that under this new curriculum for Public Policy Studies our majors will have a better academic experience and a better understanding of how the public sector works. Our students will be able to enroll in more courses that are relevant to their interests in public policy and will be more marketable in the public policy arena once they graduate from Vanderbilt. The flexibility of the program will increase student satisfaction with the program. I circulated a copy of the proposed curriculum to our current majors, and everyone who responded or attended the meeting at which it was discussed thought that this curriculum was a big improvement over the current curriculum. They were all supportive of the change.

I attach a letter from Professor Janet Eyler, the Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations at Peabody. Professor Eyler organizes the course offerings in public policy and is responsible for staffing these courses. She assured me that our majors will be able to get into HOD 1800 and HOD 2820. Peabody offers many sections of HOD 1800 each year. They offer only one section of HOD 2820 a year but will add extra sections to accommodate Public Policy majors from the College of Arts and Science. The program director will maintain close contact with Professor Eyler in the planning of course offerings each semester.

We would like to phase in the new curriculum. We propose replacing the old curriculum with the new curriculum for new majors in the 2009/2010 academic year. The current director of the Public Policy Studies Program will be on sabbatical leave in 2008/2009. We feel that it would be easier to phase in the new curriculum when Professor Anderson is back on campus rather than to have the replacement director advise policy majors under two versions of the curriculum during their first year as program director.
From: Eyler, Janet S [janet.s.eyler@Vanderbilt.Edu]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 10:46 AM
To: Anderson, Kathryn H
Cc: McLendon, Michael K; jwgxiii@bellsouth.net
Subject: New public policy major and HOD course options

Kathy

This is to confirm our conversation on Thursday about the availability of some of our undergraduate coursework for majors in your new Policy program. As we discussed, it will be no problem at all to make room for the 25 or so majors you anticipate in our core course HOD 1800 Public Policy. This year we are offering three sections in the fall and eight in the spring. If your student demand increases our need, we will add a section. It is offered every semester and your students should have no trouble finding a section either fall or spring. This course does assume that students have had statistics and systematic inquiry HOD 1700 prior to the class; the course includes some data based problem analysis.

The advanced track courses in our Policy track provide larger difficulties as each is now offered in one section only once a year. You anticipate high demand for the course HOD 2820 Public Finance as part of your required core. If demand for the public finance course warrants adding an additional section, we would plan to offer it each semester, meeting your need and also offering our track majors greater flexibility.

Let me know how this progresses and we will talk further about ways to cooperate to offer strong elective options for students in our HOD policy track and your major.

Janet Eyler
Proposed Public Policy Studies Major Curriculum

Prerequisites: PSCI 100, 101, 102, or 150; ECON 100 & 101

Core courses 24 hours

General 3 hours:
    HOD 1800 (Public Policy; prerequisite HOD 1700 or equivalent)

Research methods: 3 hours
    HOD 1700 (Systematic Inquiry),
    HOD 2800 (Policy Analysis Methods),
    PSCI 270 (Conducting Political Research), or
    SOC 211 (Introduction to Social Research)

Statistics: 3 hours
    ECON 150 (Economic Statistics),
    SOC 127 (Statistics for Social Scientists),
    MATH 218 & 218L (Mathematical Statistics + Lab), or
    PSY-P 2101 (Introduction to Statistical Analysis)

Ethics: 3 hours
    PSCI 208 (Law, Politics, and Justice),
    PSCI 253 (Ethics in Public Policy),
    PHIL 239 (Moral Problems; prerequisite PHIL 105), or
    PHIL 270-272 (Ethics is Medicine, Business, and Law; prerequisite PHIL 105)

Public Finance: 3 hours
    HOD 2820 (Public Finance), or
    ECON 254 (Public Finance; prerequisite, ECON 231)

Government: 3 hours
    any political science PSCI 200-level course between 210-262 excluding 253 and 270, or HOD 2810 (Politics of Public Policy)

Economics: 3 hours
    any ECON 200-level course except 254

Society and Culture: 3 hours
    any sociology course above SOC 201 excluding 211 and 212, or
    any anthropology course above ANTH 203
Policy Track 12 hours

The track is an in-depth exploration of one area of public policy. Each student designs his or her own track with the advice and approval of the Program Director. Examples are given below.

Capstone seminar 3 hours

Total 39 hours

Policy track examples:
Crime and Justice
ECON 285 Law and Economics
PSY 215 Abnormal Psychology
SOC 231 Criminology
SOC 232 Delinquency and Juvenile Justice

Labor Market Policy
ECON 212 Labor economics
SOC 251 Women and public policy in America
SOC 255 Racial and ethnic minorities in the United States
PSCI 244 The legislative process

Religion and public policy
SOC 246 Sociology of religion
PSCI 246 Religion and politics in the United States
RLST 140 Introduction to Western Religious Ethics
PHIL 242 Philosophy of Religion

Health Policy
ECON 268 Economics of health
SOC 237 Society and medicine
HIST 204 History of medicine, 1950 to present
PHIL 270 Ethics and Medicine

Policy in Western Europe
PSCI 210 Western European politics
PSCI 211 The European Union
HIST 230 European unification since 1945
EUS 201 European society and culture

Policy in the Middle East
PSCI 230 Middle East Politics
JS 120 Islam and the Jews
HIST 256 Nationalism and Islam in the Middle East Since 1798
PSCI 236 Politics of Global Inequality
**Peabody courses in the core curriculum:**

HOD 1700  Systematic Inquiry  
HOD 1800  Public Policy  
HOD 2800  Policy Analysis Methods  
HOD 2810  Politics of Public Policy  
HOD 2820  Public Finance  

PSY 2101  Introduction to Statistical Analysis  

**Arts and Science courses in the core curriculum:**

Any ANTH course above 203  

ECON 150  Statistics  
ECON 254  Public Finance  
Any other 200-level ECON course  

MATH 218 and 218L Mathematical Statistics  

PHIL 270  Ethics and Medicine  
PHIL 271  Ethics and Business  
PHIL 272  Ethics and Law  

PSCI 208  Law, Politics, and Justice  
PSCI 253  Ethics and Public Policy  
PSCI 270  Conducting Political Research  
Any other PSCI course above 209  

SOC 211  Introduction to Social Research  
SOC 127  Statistics for Social Scientists  
Any other SOC course above 201
Current Curriculum for the Public Policy Studies Major

Core courses 24 hours

Research methods 3 hours
    HOD 1700, SOC 211, or PSCI 270

Statistical methods 3 hours
    ECON 150, MATH 218 plus 218LL, or SOC 127

Microeconomics 3 hours
    ECON 231

Social Change 3 hours
    SOC 102, 204, 226, 235, 249, 260, PSCI 231, or 233

Ethics 3 hours
    PHIL 239, 270, 271, 272, PSCI 208, 253, or HOD 2890

General background 9 hours
    Three of the following courses:
    ANTH 102, 233, ECON 212, 251, 252, 254, 279, 284, 285, 288, PHIL 253,
    PSCI 255, 261, 262, SOC 240, 244, HOD 2100, 2260, 2610, or 2650

Policy Track 15 hours

Total 39 hours
Public Policy Studies

DIRECTOR: Kathryn H. Anderson, Department of Economics
ADVISORY BOARD: Gary F. Jensen, Department of Sociology; Carol M. Swain, Department of Political Science and Law School; Michael K. McLendon, Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations

Students may choose an interdisciplinary program of concentration in public policy studies. The program includes courses in economics, political science, philosophy, sociology, and human and organizational development. Students take elective courses focusing on public policy issues.

Program of Concentration in Public Policy Studies

The major requires 39 hours of course work. The program of concentration consists of two parts: 24 hours of required core courses, 12 hours of elective courses focusing on one substantive policy area, and a capstone research seminar. A student contemplating a major in public policy studies should take Economics 100 and 101 and Political Science 100, 101, 102 or 150 as prerequisites to the core. Individual courses included in the program may specify additional prerequisites. If one of the required courses is not offered, students may substitute with the permission of their major advisor.

I. Core Courses (24 hours)

General: HOD 1800 Public Policy (prerequisite HOD 1700 or equivalent)

Research Methods: HOD 1700 Systematic Inquiry; HOD 2800 Policy Analysis Methods; SOC 211 Introduction to Social Research; or PSCI 270 Conducting Political Research

Statistical Methods: ECON 150 Economic Statistics; MATH 218 plus 218L Introduction to Mathematical Statistics and Statistics Laboratory; SOC 127 Statistics for Social Scientists; or PSY 2101 Introduction to Statistical Analysis

Ethics: PHIL 239 Moral Problems, 270 Ethics and Medicine, 271 Ethics and Business, 272 Ethics and Law (prerequisite for all of these courses PHIL 105); PSCI 208 Law, Politics and Justice, or 253 Ethics and Public Policy

Public Finance: HOD 2820 Public Finance or ECON 254 Public Finance (prerequisite ECON 231)

Government: one political science PSCI 200-level course between 210-262 excluding 253, or HOD 2810 (Politics of Public Policy)

Economics: one ECON 200-level course except 254

Society and Culture: one sociology course above SOC 201 excluding 211 or 212, or
one anthropology course above ANTH 203

II. Capstone seminar (3 hours): PPS 295 Senior Seminar on Research in Public Policy

III. Track requirement (12 hours)

The track is intended to allow the student to go more deeply into one area of public policy. Each student is free to design his or her own track with the advice and approval of their major advisor.

**Five examples** of policy tracks are given below.


*Religion and Public Policy*: SOC 246 Sociology of Religion; PSCI 246 Religion and Politics in the United States; RLST 140 Introduction to Western Religious Ethics; PHIL 242 Philosophy of Religion

*Health Policy*: ECON 268 Economics of Health; SOC 237 Society and Medicine, SOC 264 Social Dynamics of Mental Health; HIST 204 History of Medicine, 1950 to Present

*Policy in Western Europe*: PSCI 210 Western European Politics; ECON 263 International Trade; HIST 230 European Unification Since 1945; EUS 201 European Society and Culture

*Crime and Justice*: ECON 285 Law and Economics; PSY 215 Abnormal Psychology; SOC 231 Criminology, 232 Delinquency and Juvenile Justice

III. Honors Program

A student concentrating in public policy studies may apply for admission to the Honors Program. The admission, supervision, and evaluation of the student are subject to College of Arts and Science regulations and will be the responsibility of both the Committee on Public Policy Studies and the Committee on the Honors Program in an appropriate participating department.

**295. Senior Seminar on Research in Public Policy.** Research seminar in public policy. Supervised research project in policy track area incorporating methodologies and analytical insights from more than one discipline. SPRING. [3] Staff.