

Date: Tue, 16 Nov 2010 22:00:53 -0500

Subject: Oppose eliminating the Department of Public Administration

To: onsrud@spatial.maine.edu

From: "Jacob Baker" <Jacob_Baker@umit.maine.edu>

Dear Dr. Onsrud,

I am writing today to urge your committee to reconsider the proposal to suspend the Department of Public Administration. As a current student I realize that I will not be affected by this change, however elimination of the department will be detrimental to not just future students but the state as a whole.

I fully realize that shrinking budgets mean that cuts must be made. However, as somebody who has worked in government I know that there are always other options. Cutting a program that adds long-term value to the University just does not make economic sense. Many of this programs graduates work in Augusta at some point in their careers. Consequently it is this program,s graduates that will be making future decisions regarding funding for the University of Maine System.

I moved to Maine specifically for the Masters in Public Administration program (MPA) at UMaine. No other school in the state is certified to offer an MPA, a nationally recognized certification. In fact the department just went through a rigorous reaccreditation process where the certification was renewed for six more years. Eliminating this program means students will either have to forgo an MPA or attend a school out of state.

Public administration students learn to truly manage government. We learn how to allocate resources efficiently in the public sector; we work with difficult concepts such as the redistribution of wealth across society. More importantly, we learn how to be good public servants. These are the skills that are in demand right now. We are town managers, county managers and government advisers ~ people who make our society work, more specifically people who make Maine work.

I urge you reconsider the suspension of the Department of Public Administration. As stated above, there are good and bad ways to balance a budget. Cutting a department that adds so much value to the University and the state is definitely the latter.

Sincerely,
Jacob Baker

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