

TO: Members of the Program Creation and Reorganization Review Committee
The University of Maine Faculty Senate

FROM: Jeffrey Hecker, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Dan Sandweiss, Dean and Associate Provost for Graduate Education

RE: Proposal for Reorganization (phase 3)

DATE: **April 12, 2013**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School propose to move the School of Policy and International Affairs (SPIA) from the Graduate School to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

We submitted a pre-proposal to the PCRRC on March 8, 2013, to initiate the informal phase of PCRRC review. The committee decided that the proposed action constituted a significant academic change and recommended that the request for reorganization move to phase 3. The attached proposal is provided for the PCRRC's review.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

cc: P. Ferguson, President
S Hunter, Provost
J. Ryan, HR
H. Onrsud, Faculty Senate President

Part I - Description of Proposed Move of SPIA from the Grad School to CLAS

Enrollment in SPIA's M.A. in Global Policy program has increased threefold since admitting its initial cohort of seven students in fall 2010. Prospective student interest in SPIA's graduate program continues to grow as the School gains greater visibility and credibility both on and off campus. However, due to inadequate institutional capacity, SPIA is unable to accommodate student demand for a multi-disciplinary graduate program that deals with emerging policy issues that cross local, national, and international jurisdictions. The result is an arbitrary cap of about 20 students enrolled in the program at any one time (core courses are currently offered bi-annually keeping graduate class size to about 20).

Under the current organization, SPIA relies almost exclusively upon supportive Cooperating Faculty and their respective departments, as the School does not currently serve as a tenure unit or house faculty salary lines. With some exceptions, most instruction is offered through already existing courses. In all courses, the addition of SPIA students has resulted in a higher quality learning experience. In addition, as currently constituted, the SPIA Director also serves as the Graduate Coordinator and is responsible for advising all graduate students in the program.

In order to create the opportunity to expand its capacity and fulfill its potential, SPIA will move from the Graduate School to CLAS. Being housed in CLAS will provide SPIA a voice in college-level discussions about academic programming, direction and mission. It also increases opportunities to participate in faculty hiring decisions or gain faculty lines and/or joint appointments. SPIA is less likely to have these opportunities if they remained under the Graduate School.

Transferring to CLAS will also enable SPIA to expand and strengthen ties with other units within the college (e.g., Political Science, International Affairs, Modern Languages). A closer institutional connection will enable SPIA to augment the Departments and Schools in CLAS by developing mutually beneficial courses, symposia, and other activities for both graduate and undergraduate students.

At its most basic level, this move is merely changing the SPIA reporting lines from the Dean and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies to the Dean of CLAS. The Director will continue to administer the entirety of all associated accounts - including the current base E&G budget, scholarship funds, and endowment income. There are no new costs associated with the move.

There is no impact on current programming as the reorganization is to create future opportunity for students, both undergraduate and graduate, and Cooperating Faculty.

Part II – Concise Responses to Questions

1. A Director and an Administrative Officer currently administer the daily operations of SPIA under the auspices of the Graduate School. SPIA has 37 Cooperating Faculty drawn from every major college on campus, and 15 Cooperating Scholars from around the world. In addition, SPIA has a faculty Program Advisory Committee (PAC - Teisl, Lindenfeld, Warhola) charged with

reviewing programmatic initiatives, applying criteria for admitting new Cooperating Faculty, and advising the Director on matters of unit policy. An external Advisory Board assists the Director with fundraising, securing student internships, coordinating conferences and campus lectures, and advises the Director on a wide range of issues regarding the School's role and mission and its relationship to the people of Maine and the larger international community. SPIA also houses *The William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce*.

In accordance with its mission, SPIA currently operates as an academic unit that offers a multi-disciplinary M.A. in Global Policy to approximately 20 students. SPIA is a major source of campus programming on policy issues of international import that supports its academic mission, often in conjunction with other departments and/or external organizations. The School is also the primary partner with the Climate Change Institute (CCI) in administering the current National Science Foundation funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program.

2. As mentioned above, the move of SPIA to CLAS will present SPIA with a greater opportunity to bring additional highly qualified students to campus and fulfill its potential of delivering the highest quality, graduate-level instruction. The move will also more aptly position SPIA institutionally, so that it can develop mutually beneficial, synergistic and multi-disciplinary initiatives with other strong CLAS units. There are no additional costs as a result of the reorganization.

3. Dr. Mario Teisl, SPIA's former Director, and CAPT Jim Settele, former Asst. Director, have discussed the reorganization over the past year during their evaluation of the long range sustainability of the SPIA program. They initiated discussions last October with Dean Sandweiss and Dean Hecker to gauge their level of interest. Both Deans enthusiastically supported the move, acknowledging it is the next logical step in SPIA's maturation process. Dean Hecker subsequently shared the idea with Provost Hunter in early November, and Dean Sandweiss discussed the move with the SPIA Board at their last Board meeting (end of November). Dr Teisl included the PAC in informal discussions. The Provost, SPIA Board and PAC support the move and understand that it will facilitate the growth of SPIA in ways that would be unlikely if it remained housed in the Graduate School.

4. The proposed reorganization affects two staff members (SPIA's Director and Administrative Officer).

5. The affected parties include the Director and Administrative Officer and both are in favor of the reorganization.