

Dr. Peterson, members of PCRRC and all on this list:

Unfortunately I have a scholar/colleague visiting from the University of Chester who is giving a presentation at this exact time so I cannot be there. But in the spirit of transparency I wanted to share my thoughts.

I find the proposed transfer of SPIA to CLAS interesting as I can see no operational/financial/organizational/institutional benefit or compelling reasons for this transfer. Please allow me to expand on my reasons for this observation.

As the original founding director of SPIA it was placed in the administrative orbit of CBPPH. As SPIA became a functioning reality it was decided to move SPIA to the graduate school for what seemed then (and now) to be compelling reasons:

1. it was a graduate only level program
2. faculty involvement came from every college on campus and the idea was to use, to the maximum extent possible, the existing curricula offerings across the University
3. since it involved such a broad selection of faculty the argument for not placing it in a single unit (at that time CBPPH) made sense then and still makes sense now.

and as such, much like the Graduate School of BioMedical Sciences it was thought by all concerned (the PCRRC, the faculty of SPIA, the Graduate School leadership and the leadership of SPIA) that being in the Graduate School made the most sense. Simply put, what has changed or

what is the underlying logic that drives this move at this time and do the various stakeholders support this move?

The financing of SPIA comes from two endowments that I set up--the first is the "normal" endowment in that only the interest can be used for SPIA. The second endowment is unique in that both the principal and the interest can be used to fund SPIA operations. To the best of my knowledge the only ongoing costs of SPIA are the director's salary, the admin assistant (which was and can be shared with another area), and another assistant. At the time of the formation of the School and its initial operations we did not provide any stipends for faculty teaching--the idea was to integrate SPIA into the ongoing offerings at each unit by the faculty there with a few exceptions. Since I am no longer involved with SPIA my observations on the financing of the unit may not be accurate--but it is difficult to see how the finances of SPIA would be a major concern or driving force for movement out of the graduate school.

This move makes no institutional sense as it diminishes the prestige and offerings of the Graduate School as an independent unit--why not then move the GSBS to CLAS as well and strip the Graduate School of all direct operating units delivering education and research?

If we are going to move SPIA--why not return it to the home where it began? What are the compelling reasons not to do that.

Again I apologize for not being there but I wished to share my perspective for your consideration.

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