

Report to the Council on Academic Affairs

Ad Hoc Committee on the Reporting Line of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs

Ad Hoc Committee: Drs. Kay Wolf; John Fellingham, Ashok Krishnamurthy, Barbara Polivka

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On January 20, 2006, the proposal to merge the School of Public Policy and Management with the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, to establish the John Glenn School of Public Affairs (JGSPA), with a reporting line to the Office of Academic Affairs, was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA). Subsequently, the University Senate approved the proposal on March 9, 2006 and the Board of Trustees approved it on April 7, 2006. The approval of the reporting line to the Office of Academic Affairs is accompanied by the following five stipulations.

1. Academic and budgetary guidance and review will be provided by a committee chaired by a Vice Provost and composed of the Deans of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Fisher College of Business, and the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, as well as three senior faculty members from the appropriate disciplines appointed by the aforementioned four administrators.
2. The Board of Directors of the John Glenn Institute will be reconstituted as the Board of Advisors of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, and will include these seven committee members and others as may be appropriate. Senator John Glenn will serve as Chair of the new Board of Advisors.
3. The JGSPA reporting line to OAA be approved for a probationary period of five years.
4. JGSPA will provide annually, to CAA, a report that outlines its progress toward the goals articulated in its 15 April 2005 strategic and financial plans, and the April 24, 2005 statement on curriculum.
5. At the end of the probationary period that CAA determine through rigorous evaluation and review whether the reporting line be maintained; at that time, CAA may either (1) confirm that the reporting line be maintained, (2) extend the probationary period, or (3) determine that the reporting line not be maintained.

The Ad-Hoc Committee, included the Chair of CAA and the chairs of each of the three standing subcommittees, and was charged with reviewing the reporting line and making a recommendation as written in stipulation 5.

Ad-Hoc Committee Activities and Recommendations

The committee met five times. We initially reviewed the proposal and discussed the reporting line with Dr. W. Randy Smith, Vice Provost, the Vice Provost through whom the School currently reports to the Office of Academic Affairs. We met with Dr. Charlie Wise, John Glenn School of Public Affairs Director; Dr. Joseph Steinmetz, Executive Dean and Vice Provost of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Joseph Alutto, Executive

Vice President and Provost; and the faculty members of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. The outcomes of these meetings are listed below.

1. Consistently, across all meetings the constituents reported a positive feeling toward the current reporting mechanism. Dr. Alutto noted that it is a unique situation that will not be utilized across the campus for other schools.
2. Dr. Wise and the faculty members noted that the reporting line has allowed faculty to cross many boundaries to increase their scholarship as well as work in the community. Specifically, the faculty members felt that they were better recognized by the community because they are an independent school. In addition, they felt that they could interact with researchers across the campus in a more open and collegial manner.
3. The faculty members reported that as the School began to develop, the reporting line to the Office of Academic Affairs has allowed a faster growth period with fewer levels of reporting lines.
4. The faculty members reported no concerns about going directly from the School Director to OAA in terms of general concerns, or promotion and tenure issues.
5. The unique products of the School were described by all constituents. Dr. Steinmetz stated that the translation of Public Affairs to the Public was a unique product allowing the School to specialize in scholarship promoting translation to the public.
6. Dr. Steinmetz reported that in the future more joint appointments between the College of Arts and Sciences and the School could strengthen the scholarship of both the Department of Political Science and the School.
7. Annual reports to CAA have shown the success of the School in virtually all dimensions associated with the plan for its initial development and the School has a new strategic plan that shows clearly defined directions for its future.
8. Drs. Steinmetz, Alutto, Wise, and Smith responded that the current reporting mechanism is appropriate for the current time and had found no concerns to date.
9. One concern for the current organizational positioning of the School is that faculty members do not have representation on the University Senate. The Ad-Hoc Committee believes this situation needs attention by the University Senate.

Overall, the consensus was that the current reporting line is appropriate, but will need to be re-considered in the future as the School evolves. While all stake-holders interviewed were currently satisfied, there was a continual sense that the reporting line should be reviewed in the future. Therefore, the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee members is to maintain the current reporting line of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs to the Office of Academic Affairs, with an evaluation by the Council on Academic Affairs in five years.

John Glenn School of Public Affairs Reporting Line: Summaries from Constituents Interviewed

Faculty Members of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs

The faculty members in the School view the reporting line of the School to the Office of Academic Affairs as a positive situation. The merger of the School of Public Policy and Management with the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy resulted in a unique opportunity for the School to be formed without boundaries within a larger College increasing the opportunities for collaboration in scholarship and teaching.

The growth of the School is on target. The faculty members reported that the student numbers have increased and the academic capacity of the students has also increased. The new undergraduate program appears to be very successful and the faculty members are very happy to be a part of the new program.

The School is highly rated nationally. The faculty members report that they believe the School will continue to rise in the rankings. The current independent School is a model that is used in various other universities. The Faculty members also reported that the Strategic Plan for the School supports this growth with an active plan.

The Faculty members also stated that they felt the collaborations with the community are better due to the School being independent from a College. They believe that community members are able to locate them. They have a very active relationship with the Community and believe this is translated well with the current model.

The Faculty Members reported no problems in taking concerns to the Provost. They feel the current School Director (Dr. Wise) is a good director who is fair and feel that they can take their information forward to the Provost.

Concern was voiced that the School is not able to submit names to the Faculty Senate Membership due to the current membership criteria.

Dr. Joseph Alutto, Executive Vice President and Provost

Dr. Alutto reported that the current reporting line for the John Glenn School of Public Affairs is appropriate at this time. The School is in a time of transition and is currently creating a presence in the community. The relationship between School and the community is unique and needs to be maintained. Public Affairs is a critical area for the University to link to the Community.

The current reporting line is a unique situation that should be reviewed in the future. Presently, it should remain and Dr. Alutto is comfortable having the School report to him.

Dr. Charlie Wise, John Glenn School of Public Affairs Director

Dr. Wise reported that the current reporting line is working well. The 2016 Strategic Plan for the School is to move the School toward a College and this current reporting line assists in reaching this goal. Dr. Wise also reported that the school is growing and has with new undergraduate programs and a dual degree program. This growth and independence is demonstrated through a sustainable budget model.

Dr. Wise reported that the School is in a leadership position for Schools of Public Affairs. The School is progressing in scholarship and has a close relationship with the Community.

The current School structure is also recognized by Dr. Wise as a means for creating collaboration across the university in both teaching and scholarship. The new undergraduate program with many courses in other units is such a demonstration of the strong collaboration in teaching. The research that is aligned with the three areas of discovery by the University also demonstrates collaboration across the campus.

Dr. Wise also reported that he is confident that he can continue to demonstrate progress within the school through his reports to the CAA each year and the new Strategic Plan.

Dr. Joseph Steinmetz, Executive Dean and Vice Provost of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Steinmetz reported that the current reporting line for the John Glenn School of Public Affairs is good at this time. He described the School as having a unique role in translation of Public Affairs to the Public and that this aligns with a strong scholarship area for the school. At the same time, the School is highly interconnected to the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Steinmetz recommends a continual collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences and the School. This could be strengthened with joint hiring. There is currently collaboration through the teaching of courses in the School's new undergraduate program.

Dr. Steinmetz recommended continuation of the current reporting line with a continual review of outcomes, opportunities for collaboration and potential means to strengthen related programs.