Global Synergies
Impact • Visibility • Enrichment

July 10, 2009
Purdue University
Global Public Policy Institute
White Paper

Report of the Global Public Policy Institute Task Force

July 10, 2009
GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE TASK FORCE
Convened by President France A. Córdova

Carolyn Curiel (Launch Coordinator)
President's Chief Of Staff &
Clinical Professor of Communication
curiel@purdue.edu

S. Laurel Weldon (Chair)
Associate Professor- Political Science
weldons@purdue.edu

Diane Denis (Co-Chair)
Professor- Krannert
Duke Realty Chair in Finance
diane@purdue.edu

Joseph Pekny (Co-Chair)
Interim Head, School of Industrial Engineering;,
Director- E-Enterprise Center; Professor- Chemical Engineering
pekny@purdue.edu

Steven Abel
Assistant Dean - Clinical Programs, School of
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science;
Head- Department of Pharmacy Practice;
Bucke Professor of Pharmacy Practice
sable@iupui.edu

Lynn Bryan
Professor- Physics and Curriculum and Instruction
labryan@purdue.edu

Richard Buckius
Vice President for Research
Professor- Mechanical Engineering
rbuckius@purdue.edu

Melba Crawford
Assistant Dean- Agriculture & Engineering
mcrwford@purdue.edu

Melissa Dark
Associate Professor- Computer Technology; Assistant Dean- School of Technology
dark@purdue.edu

J. Eric Dietz
Associate Professor- Computer Technology
jedietz@purdue.edu

Rabindra N. Mukerjea
Executive Director
Strategic Planning and Assessment
rmukerjea@purdue.edu

Shelley M. MacDermid Wadsworth
Professor- Child Development and Family Studies;
Director- Military Family Research Institute;
Associate Dean of Consumer and Family Sciences
shelley@purdue.edu

William Masters
Associate Department Head and Professor- Agricultural Economics
wmasters@purdue.edu

Timothy Ratliff
Director- Purdue University Center for Cancer Research; Professor- Comparative Pathobiology
tlratliff@purdue.edu

Bert Rockman
Department Head and Professor- Political Science
barockma@purdue.edu

Mark J.T. Smith
Dean- Graduate School
mjts@purdue.edu

Eugene Spafford
Professor- Computer Sciences
spaf@purdue.edu

Beverly Davenport Sypher
Associate Provost; Susan B. Butler Chair Of Leadership Excellence; Professor- Communication
bdsypher@purdue.edu

Wallace Tyner
Professor- Agricultural Economics
wtyner@purdue.edu
**INTRODUCTION**

*The creation of a policy institute at Purdue represents an exciting opportunity to enhance the visibility and impact of the discovery, learning and engagement undertaken at Purdue.*

- There has been an explosion of university-affiliated and other policy institutes, policy schools and think tanks in the United States over the last century. At present, all of the Big Ten schools and all of our aspirational peers have policy institutes. Purdue University started a small policy institute at one time, but it did not grow and was closed in the early 1990s.

- A policy institute will enhance the impact of research at Purdue, enrich learning and promote the visibility of the institution, bringing benefits to faculty, students and alumni, as well as to the community, state and public more generally. For this reason, a policy institute was suggested by no fewer than four of the “Tiger Teams” created during the strategic planning process.

- Purdue has some comparative advantages that would make it possible to create a distinctive policy institute, one that could compete in many important areas. We outline this distinctive vision of a policy institute below.

**MISSION**

*Promote synergies in learning, discovery and engagement that inform public policy at the local, state, national and global levels.*

Key Characteristics:

- A vibrant community of faculty experts, students, policy makers and media experts convening to understand and discuss pressing public issues of national and global importance.

- A venue for interdisciplinary, evidence-based collaboration in policy-relevant research and scholarship leading to high-profile and in-depth information that contributes to public policy development.

- The capacity for timely issue and policy analyses and briefings that can serve the needs of policy makers and the public efficiently and effectively.

- An agenda that builds on Purdue’s strengths and research priorities, while attending to emerging national and global needs and conditions that encompass public policy issues.
VISION

Emerge as a distinguished global resource for shaping public policy – with active leadership in addressing policies and their evolving impact on world societies.

Key Characteristics:

- Distinction as a world-class intellectual resource of significant impact on policy analyses and development serving national and global societies.

- Eminent contributions to evolving public policies addressing grand challenges of society – with particular initial focus on: life/health and family issues, energy/environment and climate change issues, cyber/information technology and security issues, and civil society and leadership issues.

- Widespread visibility derived from a global, multidisciplinary orientation, as well as a flexible orientation towards event-driven and/or user-driven inquiries in public policy.

- Advanced learning programs for students in public policy that can prepare them for successful careers at the local, state, national and global levels.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND ACTION ITEMS

Visibility and impact

The impact of Purdue faculty research can be enhanced by providing the resources and space needed to:

- build connections within and outside the university.
- cultivate policy-relevant research across disciplines.
- engage faculty with the public, the media and policy makers.

Policy-relevant research will engage the public and public issues on new topics and in innovative ways including:

- the creation of cross-disciplinary research communities on broadly-defined topics in public and global affairs that encapsulate major challenges of our times, and bring together faculty with existing and potential shared interests and policy impact, specifically those involving: life/health and family issues, energy/environment and climate change issues, cyber/information technology and security issues, and civil society and leadership issues.
- faculty and student fellowships and distinguished visiting fellowships to promote in-depth policy research.
- workshops, forums and publications in which national and international experts address specific themes or problems.
- seed grants to support new ideas for individual and collaborative activities.
• a wide range of activities to involve the public and public officials in agenda setting for research.

The effectiveness of these policy institute activities will depend on the relevance, credibility and visibility of our work. We will need mechanisms to maintain effectiveness by:

• adjusting our substantive focus over time to maintain relevance.
• maintaining a non-partisan, evidence-based approach to engagement.
• facilitating the media and policy analysis presence of Purdue researchers at every level.

A background paper provides further detail on these findings and recommendations.

Faculty-driven leadership and structure

The Institute should be focused on being timely, problem-driven and policy-relevant, while maintaining credibility and assuring the academic quality of the Institute and its programs and products. For this reason, faculty should be at the forefront of the institution.

The quality of the leadership of the Institute will be critical for ensuring a successful organization. Much depends on getting the right person, with a combination of excellence in research, passion for learning, top notch administrative and leadership skills, as well as knowledge and experience in dealing with the public via the media and public officials. The leader will also likely need significant experience in fundraising.

Faculty should be included on any advisory or governing board in significant numbers. Committees comprised primarily, if not completely, of faculty should be responsible for maintaining the academic integrity of the Institute.

Enriched learning

We propose three flagship initiatives for the Global Public Policy Institute in the area of learning. Based on our review of existing resources, courses and programs, we recommend three learning offerings that the Institute could quickly accomplish using seed funds: An undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy, an Interdisciplinary Internship Program in Public Policy, and a Master of Science in Public Policy (explained below). The Institute could gradually expand to encompass a number of additional opportunities as donor support and other funding permits.

• The first offering will be for undergraduates from any college to earn a Certificate in Public Policy. The Certificate will be composed of nine credits, chosen from a list of existing course offerings, with, for example, at least one semester-long course from a set of “core” policy courses plus at least two semester-long courses from another list of related courses in various fields. To earn the CPP, students may also need a policy-oriented capstone activity, for which the list might include off-campus internships and study abroad programs,
senior design projects and other activities done on-campus.

- A second offering will be for undergraduates, and possibly graduate students, to participate in an **Interdisciplinary Internship Program in Public Policy**. This will facilitate student placement in summer or semester-long internships with policy-oriented institutions around the world, and may also include internships and paid research assistant positions in policy-related projects on campus.

- A third initiative will be to revive the previously-offered **Master of Science in Public Policy and Public Administration** degree. This would involve requirements from a list of existing course offerings, plus capstone and research activities offered through the Institute itself. The number of tuition-paying students attracted to such a program might be relatively small and variable from year to year, but the cost of operations would be low and the net impact would be very significant, especially if the Institute attracted enough funding to hire its own faculty and offer its own courses.

Each of these three flagship learning programs could grow with donor support. An initial University commitment for five years would provide a running start, pulling together and leveraging existing university resources in a low-cost manner to bring Purdue students closer to the frontier of policy research and implementation. The three big programs could also be supplemented by a variety of student-oriented activities such as visiting speakers and events, scholarship awards and student travel funds which can serve as development targets for donors to consider supporting through the Institute once it is established.

A background paper provides further detail on these findings and recommendations.

**Global perspective and presence**

There is a growing need for policy analysis that is global in scope as the global dimensions of pressing public problems become more salient. Few other policy institutes are global in scope and this provides a way of distinguishing ourselves from our peers. The Institute would enhance the University’s global perspective and presence by:

- working to establish research-based partnerships with institutions in other countries and regions.
- building relationships with public officials and experts around the world.

**Interdisciplinarity**

Real world problems rarely fall neatly into disciplinary boundaries. Addressing such problems will likely require scholars to work across disciplinary boundaries. Purdue already has an impressive infrastructure of interdisciplinary academic programs and centers on which we can build.
• The Institute should provide incentives and coordinating mechanisms for cross-disciplinary work. This includes space, administrative support, research and teaching awards, and other assistance that disciplinarily-based institutions are unlikely to give to interdisciplinary researchers.

Provide an interface between science and society

Purdue is uniquely situated to develop innovative ways of involving the public and public officials in the production and consumption of science and scholarship, broadly construed to include the social sciences and humanities scholarship as well as research on technology, math, engineering and the natural sciences.

Governance structure and space

The Institute will need a governance structure and space capable of delivering on the previously enumerated principles.

• This governance structure will need dynamic leadership, a mechanism for ensuring faculty involvement in governance (for example, a faculty advisory board) as well as a distinguished advisory council that brings eminent outsiders into a close relationship with the Institute.

• The Schowe house will be an excellent space to locate the institute and hold seminars and discussions. The Schowe house could also provide office space and perhaps living quarters for distinguished visitors.