

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-004-223

New Self-Support Counterpart of the Master of Public Administration
(Fully Online Program)

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 02/01/2023

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 02/08/2023

Academic Senate

Date: 02/15/2023
First Reading
03/08/2023
Second Reading

BACKGROUND

The College of Letters, Arts, and Social Science, in collaboration with the College of Professional and Global Education (formerly CEU), proposes to offer an accelerated Master of Public Administration (MPA) to members of the first responders and correctional communities for career enrichment. In addition to full-time Cal Poly Pomona faculty, several of the courses will be taught by leaders of these communities who will serve as coaches and mentors to those individuals who aspire to leadership positions.

The current state-supported program attracts cohorts of approximately 15-20 students, ranging from mid-career professionals to those who recently completed their Bachelors. More than half of the students in the state-support program are part-time students, which means they are enrolled in either one or two courses per semester. As a result, the average graduation time for our students is approximately 3.5 years. The newly proposed self-support MPA program is not expected to supplant the state-supported offerings given the reasons below:

1. The self-support MPA program is expected to be offered in a distance modality using both asynchronous and synchronous (Zoom) classes;
2. Students enrolled in these self-support MPA programs are expected to start and complete this program as a cohort;
3. It is an accelerated program which will allow students to complete the program in three semesters.

The program is designed for career enrichment and its courses are removed from permanent, state-supported campus facilities. They will be offered through distance education, either synchronous or asynchronous. This self-support program will provide an opportunity for uniquely enriching and applied learning.

RESOURCES CONSULTED

Associate Deans, all colleges

Dr. Brady Collins, MPA Director, Department of Political Science

Dr. Renford Reese, Founder, Prison Education Project, Department of Political Science
Senate Budget Committee

DISCUSSION

The Academic Programs Committee has consulted with the resources listed above and discussed the proposal. The Committee also conducted a campus-wide consultation, and no concerns were raised. There was concern from the Committee about sustainability of the program and both Drs. Collins and Reese were confident that this program would be sustainable based on the current and future high demand for this program. Drs. Collins and Reese have ample evidence for the high demand for a program such as this (from China, Cal Fire, and numerous Correctional Facilities in California). Cohort size will likely vary from year to year (estimating 30–50 students). There was also concern about the accelerated structure of the program. The program is designed for three semesters, with students taking courses during the summers and winter intersessions. The program is also cohort-based, so the electives would be

chosen by the cohort with everyone being from similar fields (Cal Fire, Correctional Officers, etc.). In addition, because this program will be cohort-based, the students can work on group projects that will address real-time issues that they are facing in their careers. Even though this is a Master's program that anyone could sign up, the program will be aimed at first responders and correctional officers. In response to supplantation concerns, this would be a completely online program (synchronous/ asynchronous modes of instruction) that will offer flexibility and meet the needs of working professionals and there would be no overlap with the state-side in-person program.

RECOMMENDATION

The Academic Programs Committee sees the value in this program and recommends approval of the New Fully Online Self Support Counterpart of the Master of Public Administration.