PROPOSAL FOR A COMBINED PUBLIC POLICY B.A. + M.P.P. FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM

April 2020

Proposed by the Faculty of the School of Public Policy

University of California, Riverside

1. Introduction

The School of Public Policy is proposing a new program that will allow students to obtain both B.A. and M.P.P. degrees through an integrated five-year plan of study. The proposed program is within the framework established by UCR’s Committee on Educational Policy and the UCR Graduate Council in 2007. This program prepares students for professional policy careers as well as for pursuing subsequent doctoral degrees in relevant disciplines. The combined B.A. + M.P.P. Program is open to UCR public policy undergraduates only, including double majors who have declared public policy as one of their majors and transfer students who have declared their major as public policy.

Participation in the combined program is initiated through an application for admission prior to the end of the student’s junior year. Students interested in this program should approach the student affairs advisors in SPP during their junior year. This would allow them to begin taking M.P.P. courses during their senior year and planning for their internship at the end of their senior year and a capstone project during their fifth and final year in the program. The Graduate Division does not provide financial support for students enrolled in this program, although the School of Public Policy will provide financial aid, including teaching assistantships, to qualified students.

Motivation. Quoting from the document Establishment of Combined Programs at UCR, “combined programs can better attract top high school graduates, transfer students, and returning students, especially those interested in advanced degrees. Thus, UCR departments can expect a higher proportion of good undergraduates. Combined program students will allow them to begin taking M.P.P. courses during their senior year and planning for their internship at the end of their senior year and a capstone project during their fifth and final year in the program. The Graduate Division does not provide financial support for students enrolled in this program, although the School of Public Policy will provide financial aid, including teaching assistantships, to qualified students.

In sum, the program should attract strong students into both the B.A. (Public Policy) and M.P.P. programs.

Diversity. The M.P.P. program averages enrollment of 40-45 students at any given time. For 2019-20 there are a total of 41 students enrolled in the program. Of the students enrolled in the program, 83% are minority students, while 66% are female, making it one of the most diverse graduate programs on the UCR campus. The B.A. (Public Policy) enrollment is currently 237 students. Using the admission criteria outlined below, for the 2019-20 academic year, there would be 20 juniors who would have been eligible to apply for the

1 https://senate.ucr.edu/about/policies/establishment_of_combined_programs_at_ucr.pdf
combined B.A. + M.P.P. program. Of these 20 students, 16 (or 80%) are female and 15 (or 75%) are minority students (8 Hispanic or Latino, 6 Asian, and one African-American).

The B.A. (Public Policy) program already has strong representation of minority groups, with more than one-half of the undergraduate population identifying as Hispanic or Latino. Given this very high minority representation in the program, we do not expect under-represented students to be disadvantaged in the admission and selection process for the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program. Indeed, if anything, recruiting from within the pool of UCR undergraduates would assure a higher level of URM representation in the M.P.P. program, as applicants to the M.P.P. program from UCR tend to be more ethnically diverse as a group than applicants graduating from institutions other than UCR. That said, the School maintains a continuously-updated dashboard of the demographic and ethnic characteristics of our undergraduate and M.P.P. applicants (including undergraduate transfer students), and we monitor this regularly to adjust our student recruitment processes.

Method. To make it possible to complete both degrees in five years, the combined program will allow double-counting of up to 12 credits of coursework. The justification is that there is some overlap in courses between the B.A. (Public Policy) and the M.P.P. programs, especially in elective policy areas, such as environmental, health, and immigration policies. Thus, students in the B.A. + M.P.P. program would simply substitute the M.P.P. elective courses in these policy areas for the upper-division elective courses currently offered in the B.A. (Public Policy) program.

Relation to existing programs. The program consists of the regular B.A. program in Public Policy, with M.P.P. coursework, internship and capstone initiated during the fourth year and completed at the end of year five. Up to 12 units of coursework can be double-counted by students in the program, with the M.P.P. elective courses being taken in lieu of upper-division public policy elective courses, which would allow for the (Plan II) M.P.P. requirements to be met in a single additional year. The B.A. + M.P.P. program will complement the existing two-year M.P.P. program in the School of Public Policy, whose applicant pool is comprised mostly of students who received their undergraduate degrees elsewhere.

As the primary motivation for the program is simply recruitment of academically strong students, the program involves no new courses or requirements.

Interrelation with other UC institutions. The proposed program would be unique among public policy programs nationally. No such program is offered anywhere in the UC system. (Indeed, until two years back, UCR was the only UC campus offering a B.A. in public policy; since then, UCLA is also offering such a major to its undergraduates.) Consequently, beyond making the respective B.A. (Public Policy) and M.P.P. programs more attractive, the program does not directly compete or inter-relate with other UCR or UC programs or institutions. It may also indirectly recruit top students into the UCR (or other UC) social science PhD programs via the M.P.P. program.

Department that will administer the program. The B.A. (Public Policy) and M.P.P. portions of the program will be administered by the School of Public Policy, which is the unit managing both programs currently.

Timetable for development. Depending upon the pace of program approvals, we hope to have the program offered to students starting Fall 2021. Undergraduate public policy majors with junior standing in Fall 2021
could apply for admission to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program no later than the end of Spring 2021 (AY 2020-21). Based on current levels of participation in the public policy B.A. (Public Policy) program over the past five years, we expect 5-8 students to opt for the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program each year.

Historical development of the field. There is a consistently strong demand for individuals with B.A. (Public Policy) and M.P.P. degrees in government, especially local governments and specialized public agencies (working in the water, air quality, transport, and economic development areas), and among non-profit groups and even for-profit companies. Individuals with analytical skills, versatility with diverse research methods (both quantitative and qualitative), and policy internship experience are ideally suited for these positions and are highly sought after for their problem-solving abilities. The School of Public Policy is already heavily engaged with public agencies in Southern California – city governments, county governments, water districts, air quality boards, transportation authorities, health-care districts, school districts, and the state insurance commission, to name a few – as well as with nonprofits – community-based organizations, foundations, grassroots NGOs, and trade associations. All of these entities are looking for individuals with Master’s training and analytical policy skills. Students with a B.A. + M.P.P. would be excellent candidates to fill these positions. The School’s M.P.P. program is now already four years old, and had more than 40 M.P.P. students in attendance as of Fall 2019). We feel it would be a good time to leverage interest in the M.P.P. program within our (existing) undergraduate public policy program and to facilitate entry of well-prepared undergraduate students into it.

Plan for evaluation of the program. The effectiveness of the program will be evaluated by monitoring the extent to which it increases both the quantity and the quality of students in the B.A. (Public Policy) and M.P.P. programs. The metrics of evaluation will include enrollments, average GPA, graduation rates, and the quality of job placements.

2. Program

Admission Criteria. Students in the undergraduate public policy program with junior standing (including transfer students who have declared public policy as their major) who meet the admission criteria below will be considered for admission to the five-year combined B.A. + M.P.P. program before the end of their junior year. The admission criteria are:

*Official Admission Criteria*

- 3.3 GPA in major (upper-division classes only, minimum of 16 upper-division units to be completed by the end of the junior year)
- 3.0 GPA overall
- The GRE requirement would be waived for admission to the B.A. + M.P.P. program.

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2 This will apply to transfer students as well, who will have an opportunity to complete the 16 units of upper-division units during their first year at UCR.
3 Transfer students will also need to have a combined – UCR and prior institution – overall GPA of 3.0.
Combined B.A. + M.P.P. Program Requirements. The B.A. (Public Policy) program course requirements remain as currently outlined in the general catalog. Additional course and unit requirements for the B.A. + M.P.P. program are outlined below and a sample program is provided.

The combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will require students to do the full coursework and professional development colloquium required of the two-year M.P.P. program during their senior (fourth) and fifth years in the B.A. + M.P.P. program, including the 8-unit capstone project (PBPL 289a,b) during their fifth year. The space for the additional graduate coursework in their fourth year will come from the B.A. + M.P.P. students being able to (i) double-count 12 units of coursework in the two programs (as per rules established by the Senate for combined programs), and (ii) substitute Master’s elective area courses for some of the upper-division elective courses that B.A. (Public Policy) students are required to take in two of six policy specialization tracks.

During the M.P.P. portion of this program, students must maintain a grade-point average of (both overall and in the major) of at least 3.0 for all course work, both cumulatively and for each quarter of enrollment. If the student’s GPA falls below 3.0 (for either the overall or major), he/she may be dropped from the program.

Students enrolled in the B.A. + M.P.P. program will need to successfully complete the two-quarter, 8-unit capstone team project, with both written and oral presentations, that is required of all M.P.P. students (PBPL 289A and PBPL 289B). Students must meet with their faculty mentor throughout the winter and spring quarters of their fifth year in the program to discuss and develop their capstone project and its progress. The written capstone project must be submitted by week 9 of the student’s sixth quarter in the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program. Any deviation from this plan, such as a disruption in enrollment for one or more quarters, may cause the student to be dropped from the program.

Sample Combined B.A. + M.P.P. Five-Year Course Plan. The table below outlines a sample program for a student in the proposed combined B.A. + M.P.P. program. Students will average 17 units per quarter in the B.A. portion of the program, including an internship course (PBPL 198i, 4 units), two quarters of independent studies (PBPL 190, each worth 5 units), and six occurrences of a colloquium course (PBPL 191, each worth 2 units) that has students attend six seminars offered by guest speakers in the SPP Seminar Series during the quarter and then write a short critique on each of the seminars attended.

While an average course load of 17 units per quarter may seem onerous at first glance, there are three mitigating factors to consider. First, since the students selected in the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will be among the highest-performing (top 10-15%) students in the B.A. program, this course load will be manageable for them. We find some of our top-ranked public policy majors routinely taking 16 units a quarter. Second, most of the additional units that students in the combined program will take during the B.A. portion of the program are colloquia and internship courses that do not involve the same amount of classroom time and preparatory work as regular instructional courses. Third, another 10 units will come from two quarters of independent studies or PBPL 190, a course in which students in the third year of the combined program will work with a faculty mentor on a specific policy research issue typically arising out

4 https://senate.ucr.edu/about/policies/establishment_of_combined_programs_at_ucri.pdf
of the student’s internship course (PBPL 198i) experience. Based on our own experience with our strongest undergraduate students, we believe this amount of additional coursework will be fully manageable.

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<th>FIRST YEAR (48 Units Completed)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 001A</td>
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<th>SECOND YEAR (104 Units Completed)</th>
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<td>PBPL 002</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL NAT SCI/MATH</td>
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<td>PBPL 191 (SEMINAR) (2 units)</td>
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<th>THIRD YEAR (162 Units Completed)</th>
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<td>PBPL 101</td>
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<td>PBPL 191 (2 units)</td>
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<th>FOURTH YEAR (204 Units Completed)</th>
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<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<td>PBPL 200</td>
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<td>PBPL 210</td>
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<td>PBPL 222</td>
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<td>PBPL 191 (SEMINAR) (2 units)</td>
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*Mandatory attendance in year-long professional and career development colloquium (2 hours bimonthly)*

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<th>FIFTH YEAR (240 Units Completed)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<td>PBPL 202</td>
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<td>PBPL 216</td>
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<td>PBPL 298I</td>
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*Mandatory attendance in year-long professional and career development colloquium (2 hours bimonthly)*
Application Details. Interested students (including transfer students who have been admitted into the undergraduate public policy program) will be encouraged to indicate their interest in the program to the undergraduate adviser as early as possible, but will need to submit an application no later than the end of their junior year. The application to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program must include a statement of interest (indicating why the student is interested in an M.P.P. degree and how his/her prior academic and work experience has prepared him/her for an M.P.P. degree) and at least two recommendation letters from UCR faculty members, at least one of whom must be a faculty member in the School of Public Policy. Applicants to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will be waived from the GRE requirement. The Graduate Affairs Committee of the School of Public Policy, which is the faculty body admitting applicants into the M.P.P. program, will also evaluate applicants to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program based on the applicant’s academic performance in public policy courses, the statement of interest, and the faculty recommendation letters.

Matriculation into the graduate portion of the combined program occurs in the fall quarter following the senior year, provided: (a) the M.P.P. application is accepted, (b) throughout senior year, the student is a Public Policy B.A. major with cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher, (c) by the end of the senior year, the student completes the Public Policy B.A. degree requirements and receives his or her B.A. in Public Policy.

Catalog entry

Combined B.A. + M.P.P. Five-Year Program. The School of Public Policy offers a combined B.A. + M.P.P. program in public policy, designed to lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree as well as a Master of Public Policy degree in five years. The coursework for the new program will be the same as that for the two existing programs. Only students who are public policy majors with a cumulative GPA at least 3.0 overall and 3.3 in the major (upper division classes only, with a minimum of 16 units of these courses to be completed by the end of spring quarter of the junior year) are eligible to apply for this program before the end of their junior year.

Students in the B.A. + M.P.P. program are allowed to count up to 12 units of undergraduate electives taken as undergraduates towards the 72-unit requirements of the M.P.P. degree.

Applicants to the combined program must include a statement of interest, indicating why the student is interested in an M.P.P. degree and how prior academic and work experience has prepared the student an M.P.P. degree, and a minimum of two recommendation letters from UCR faculty members, at least one of whom must be a faculty member in the School of Public Policy. The GRE requirement will be waived for these applicants.

3. Projected need, resource requirements, student support

As noted in the introduction, in keeping with the framework established by the CEP and Graduate Council, this combined program is primarily a recruitment tool, intended to leverage the increasing interest in graduate education to attract top freshmen into the B.A. (Public Policy) program and to attract top UC Riverside B.A. students into the M.P.P. program.
In the B.A. program, the prospect of entering the program at year three and completing both the B.A. and M.P.P. in a total of five years should attract students who are highly motivated and more likely than average to make it through the program. While we do have some students who choose to study Public Policy as entering freshmen, a larger proportion of our undergraduates discover the field after their first year at UC Riverside. The combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will increase the visibility of the undergraduate major to entering students. It will also raise the visibility of the major to social science students who are already enrolled at UCR but might have been unaware of the prospects offered by the discipline. We expect that the opportunity of earning a combined B.A. + M.P.P. in three years will be highly attractive to community college transfer students as well. Enrollment of community college students has recently become an urgent priority for the University of California. Combined with ongoing increases in admissions standards, this should increase both retention and the overall quality of the students.

In the M.P.P. program, we anticipate combined-program enrollment initially of only a few (5-8) students per year, but we anticipate significant growth in the years ahead. Similar five-year co-term programs in other disciplines at both UCR as well as at other UC campuses have been popular with students. Rapid growth in the proposed program would be welcome and would significantly increase overall enrollment in the M.P.P. program. There would be no expectation of support for the participants in the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program, but teaching assistant opportunities would be available to students in the combined program during their fifth year (as they are to students in the regular M.P.P. program). The tuition for the M.P.P. program includes a professional degree supplement (PDST), but students in the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program would be charged a PDST only during their fifth year – after they have already graduated with a bachelor’s degree.

Since the M.P.P. program is a professional program, relatively few of our graduates each year (typically two or three) go on to join Ph.D. programs upon graduation. (The School of Public Policy does not currently offer a Ph.D. program.) We anticipate that a few of the students in the B.A. + M.P.P. program could view it as a pipeline to Ph.D. programs in the social sciences, public policy, or public health.

To summarize, the major impact of the combined program will be to increase both the number and the quality of students in the B.A. (Public Policy) and M.P.P. programs at UCR. Naturally, it will also increase the employability of students produced by the B.A. (Public Policy) and M.P.P. programs, and help meet the increasing demand for public policy students with graduate degrees.

Resources. Note that each student in the combined program is essentially just a regular student (in the B.A. program, or, in the fifth year, in the M.P.P. program), and requires the same resources as a regular student at the same level. Also, because of the selective nature of the admissions requirements, B.A. and M.P.P. enrollments will be modestly affected, at least initially. Thus, the program requires no change in faculty, courses, or resources such as library, computing, equipment, or space. Likewise, the program requires no change in levels or mechanisms for student funding.

The program does not require any administrative support, as both the undergraduate and graduate programs in public policy are fully managed within SPP. The existing student services/advising staff will advise the students in the B.A. + M.P.P. program. The administrative functions for admission to the M.P.P. program are performed by a Graduate Affairs Committee; the same committee will also be responsible for administering the B.A. + M.P.P. program.
4. Changes in Senate regulations

No changes in Senate regulations are required.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY  

REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION  
April 2020  

To be adopted:  
Proposed Changes to Public Policy  

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| **Combined B.A. + M.P.P. Five-Year Program**  
The School of Public Policy offers a combined B.A. + M.P.P. program in public policy, designed to lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree as well as a Master of Public Policy degree in five years. The coursework for the new program will be the same as that for the two existing programs. Only students who are public policy majors with a cumulative GPA at least 3.0 overall and 3.3 in the major (upper division classes only, with a minimum of 16 units of these courses to be completed by the end of spring quarter of the junior year) are eligible to apply for this program before the end of their junior year.  

Students in the B.A. + M.P.P. program are allowed to count up to 12 units of undergraduate electives taken as undergraduates towards the 72-unit requirements of the MPP degree.  

Applicants to the combined program must include a statement of interest, indicating why the student is interested in an MPP degree and how prior academic and work experience has prepared the student an M.P.P. degree, and a minimum of two recommendation letters from UCR faculty members, at least one of whom must be a faculty member in the School of Public Policy. The GRE requirement will be waived for these applicants.  

Matriculation into the graduate portion of the combined program occurs in the fall quarter following the senior year, provided: (a) the M.P.P. application is accepted, (b) throughout senior year, the student is a Public Policy B.A. major with cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher, (c) by the end of the senior year, the student completes the Public Policy B.A. degree requirements and receives his or her B.A. in Public Policy.  

Justification:

Creation of a combined five-year B.A. + M.P.P. program.

**Approvals:**

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Public Policy
Approved by the faculty of the School of Public Policy
Approved by the Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:

March 2020
March 2020
March 2020
(insert date)
POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS RAISED BY THE VARIOUS ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEES ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMBINED B.A. + M.P.P. PROGRAM

April 2020

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Supportive of the proposal; however, the curriculum and proposal are lacking the professional development requirement for graduate students (Graduate Regulation 1.6). This requirement needs to be added to the curriculum as well as the catalog copy.

Students in the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will follow the full M.P.P. curriculum in years four and five. The M.P.P. program includes mandatory participation in a year-long, two-hours bimonthly professional and career development colloquium as well as a policy internship. We have noted this explicitly in the second paragraph on page 4 as well in the sample course plan shown in the table on page 5.

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Would like to request additional information regarding the likely diversity of the new program. Specifically, we request:

- the demographic breakdown for the current Bachelor’s and Master’s Programs, respectively.
- The demographic breakdown for the current Bachelor’s students who satisfy the requirement for admission to the 3+2 program.
- plans to monitor and to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups in the application and selection process

This is now explicitly mentioned in the last paragraph on page 1 and the first full para on page 2. As noted there, our M.P.P. program is already one of the most diverse graduate programs on campus, and the public policy majors who are eligible to apply for the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program are an equally diverse group.

COMMITTEE ON COURSES

The Committee had no objections or questions on the proposal.

GRADUATE COUNCIL

A side-by-side catalog entry needs to be included in the proposal, so upon approval, the Office of Student Affairs, Marketing & Communications knows where this program should appear in the catalog. The catalog entry should provide language that indicates the course work for this new program will be the same as the regular programs so students are aware and course work for the program is made clear. Admissions requirements need to be added to the catalog copy as well. Please refer to the Electrical Engineering BS+MS
catalog entry if you need a sample.

This has been done and the side-by-side catalog entry is now provided with the full proposal.

Graduate Council would like clarification on the faculty evaluation process for the Statement of Interest. What exactly is required in the Statement of Interest? Is there a committee that evaluates admissions to the program? What are the eligibility requirements?

There is already a Graduate Affairs Committee in the School that is responsible for admissions into the M.P.P. program. The same committee will consider applications to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program, using the same admission criteria as the M.P.P. program (with the exception of GRE scores which will be waived for the B.A. + M.P.P. applicants). The evaluation of applicants will be based on a combination of their undergraduate GPA (including at their prior institution if they are transfer students), their statement of interest, and the two recommendation letters from UCR faculty members, one of whom will need to be an SPP faculty member. In the statement of interest, applicants are expected to articulate why they are interested in an M.P.P. degree and how their prior academic and work experience (if any) has prepared them for an M.P.P. degree. All of this has been spelled out in the proposal under “Application Details” on page 6.

The eligibility requirements are clearly spelled out in Section 2 of the proposal (under the headings “Admission Criteria” on page 3 and “Application Details” on page 6). In particular, applicants to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will need to have a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.3 GPA in their major (upper division classes only, with a minimum of 16 units having been completed by the time of entry into the M.P.P. program).

The Council found the course load to be quite heavy and there were concerns about students’ ability to finish the degree in 5 years with the course load as it currently stands. Please provide feedback that this course load is indeed reasonable for students to succeed in this program.

This point is addressed on page 4 (last para) of the proposal. While an average course load of 17 units per quarter in the B.A. portion of the program may seem onerous at first glance, there are three mitigating factors to consider. First, since the students selected in the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will be among the highest-performing (top 10-15%) students in the B.A. program, this course load will be manageable for them. We find some of our top-ranked public policy majors routinely taking 16 units a quarter. Second, most of the extra units that students in the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program will take during the B.A. portion of the program are colloquia and internship courses, which do not involve the same amount of classroom time and preparatory work as regular instructional courses. Third, another 10 units will come from two quarters of independent studies or PBPL 190, a course in which students in the third year of the combined program will work with a faculty mentor on a specific policy research issue typically
arising out of the student’s internship course (PBPL 198i) experience. Based on our own experience with our strongest undergraduate students, we believe this amount of additional coursework will be fully manageable.

Admissions requirements for transfer students should be addressed in the proposal.

This has been done throughout the proposal, but especially in Section 2 (under the headings “Admission Criteria” and “Application Details”). Since the vast majority of transfer students are admitted to UCR as juniors, transfer students who have declared public policy as their major will have an opportunity to apply to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program before the end of their first year at UCR.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET

The committee was supportive of the proposal and had no questions on or objections to it.

COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Please provide justification for selecting the preliminary conditional admission criteria for entering freshmen (high school GPA > 3.6 and SAT I combined score > 1950). Please provide a clear rationale for these thresholds, as it is unlikely that there will be a sufficient pool of eligible applicants to support this program over the long-term.

Based on extensive internal discussions, we have dropped the idea of conditionally admitting entering freshmen into the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program. As such, the questions raised by the Committee on Undergraduate Admission are moot.

As the proposal now stands, all public policy majors will be eligible to apply for the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program before the end of their junior year as long as they meet the eligibility criteria discussed in the proposal. Additionally, the GRE requirement will be waived for applicants to the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program. We believe that the mere availability of these options will make it attractive for well-qualified and motivated UCR entering freshmen to select the public policy major. We see no advantage – either to the students or to the School – from admitting entering freshmen into the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program.

The SAT I combined score is based on the old SAT scoring system. Please insert clarification that this score is based on the old scoring system, and please insert (within parentheses) the equivalent SAT score using the new SAT scale (400-1600) and corresponding concordance table (e.g., a 1950 based on the old scale = 1380 based on the new scale). This should be included to avoid confusion.

As noted earlier, this issue is now moot since we have dropped the idea of conditionally admitting entering freshmen into the combined B.A. + M.P.P. program.
# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

### REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
April 2020

**To be adopted:**

**Proposed Changes to Public Policy**

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<td><strong>Combined B.A. + M.P.P. Five-Year Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;The School of Public Policy offers a combined B.A. + M.P.P. program in public policy, designed to lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree as well as a Master of Public Policy degree in five years. The coursework for the new program will be the same as that for the two existing programs. Only students who are public policy majors with a cumulative GPA at least 3.0 overall and 3.3 in the major (upper division classes only, with a minimum of 16 units of these courses to be completed by the end of spring quarter of the junior year) are eligible to apply for this program before the end of their junior year.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Students in the B.A. + M.P.P. program are allowed to count up to 12 units of undergraduate electives taken as undergraduates towards the 72-unit requirements of the MPP degree.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Applicants to the combined program must include a statement of interest, indicating why the student is interested in an MPP degree and how prior academic and work experience has prepared the student an M.P.P. degree, and a minimum of two recommendation letters from UCR faculty members, at least one of whom must be a faculty member in the School of Public Policy. The GRE requirement will be waived for these applicants.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Matriculation into the graduate portion of the combined program occurs in the fall quarter following the senior year, provided: (a) the M.P.P. application is accepted, (b) throughout senior year, the student is a Public Policy B.A. major with cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher, (c) by the end of the senior year, the student completes the Public Policy B.A. degree requirements and receives his or her B.A. in Public Policy.</td>
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Justification:

Creation of a combined five-year B.A. + M.P.P. program.

**Approvals:**

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Public Policy  March 2020
Approved by the faculty of the School of Public Policy  March 2020
Approved by the Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy  March 2020
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:  (insert date)
PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT PUBLIC POLICY BA/MPP FIVE-YEAR COMBINED-DEGREE PROGRAM

April 2019

Proposed by the Faculty of the School of Public Policy
University of California, Riverside

1 Introduction

The School of Public Policy is proposing a new degree program that will allow students to obtain both BA and MPP degrees through an integrated five-year plan of study. The proposed program is within the framework established by UCR’s Committee on Educational Policy and the UCR Graduate Council in 2007. This program prepares students for professional policy careers as well as for pursuing subsequent doctoral degrees in relevant disciplines. The Joint BA+MPP Program is open to UCR public policy undergraduates only (including double majors who have declared public policy as one of their majors).

Participation in the joint degree program is initiated through an application for admission prior to the end of the student’s junior year. Students interested in this program should approach the student affairs advisors in SPP during their junior year. This would allow them to begin taking MPP courses during their senior year and planning for their internship at the end of their senior year and a capstone project during their fifth and final year in the program. The Graduate Division does not provide financial support for students enrolled in this program, although the School of Public Policy may have some scholarships, including teaching assistantships, for strong students.

Motivation: Quoting from the document Establishment of Combined Programs at UCR, “… combined programs can better attract top high school graduates, transfer students, and returning students, especially those interested in advanced degrees. Thus, UCR departments can expect a higher proportion of good undergraduates. Combined program students will be more inclined to stay at UCR for their Master’s studies instead of applying to other institutions. Thus, UCR departments can better retain these students.”1 UC has placed an increased emphasis on attracting transfer students from community colleges, and the joint BA+MPP program provides a unique opportunity for these students.

In sum, the program should attract top students into both the BA (Public Policy) and MPP programs.

Method: To make it possible to complete both degrees in five years, the combined programs can allow double-counting of up to 12 credits of coursework. The justification is that there is considerable overlap in courses between the BA (Public Policy) and the MPP programs, especially in elective policy areas, such as environmental, health, and immigration policies. Thus, students in the BA+MPP program would simply substitute the MPP elective courses in these policy areas in place of the upper-division elective courses currently offered in the BA (Public Policy) program.

Relation to existing programs. The program consists of the regular BA program in Public Policy, with MPP coursework, internship and capstone initiated during the fourth year and completed in year five. Up to 12 units of coursework can be double-counted, with the MPP elective courses being taken in lieu of BA (Public Policy) elective courses, which would allow for the (Plan II) MPP requirements to be met in a single additional year. The BA+MPP program will complement the existing two-year MPP program in the School of Public Policy, whose applicant pool is comprised mostly of students who received their undergraduate degrees elsewhere.

1http://senate.ucr.edu/about/policies/establishment_of_combined_programs_at_ucr.pdf
As the primary motivation for the program is simply recruitment of top students, the program involves no new courses or requirements.

Interrelation with other UC institutions. The proposed program would be unique among public policy programs nationally. No such program is offered anywhere in the UC system. (Nor are we aware of any other major university in the country offering such a program.) Consequently, beyond making the respective BA (Public Policy) and MPP programs more attractive, the program does not directly compete or interrelate with other UCR or UC programs or institutions. It may indirectly recruit top students into the UCR (or other UC) social science PhD programs via the MPP program.

Department that will administer the program. The BA (Public Policy) and MPP portions of the program will be administered by the School of Public Policy, which is the unit managing both programs currently.

Timetable for development. Depending upon the pace of program approvals, we hope to have the program offered to students starting Fall 2020. Undergraduate public policy majors with junior standing in Fall 2020 could apply for admission to the combined BA+MPP program in Winter 2021 (AY 2020-21). Based on current levels of participation in the public policy BA (Public Policy) program over the past five years, we expect from 8-12 students to opt for the combined BA+MPP program each year.

Historical development of the field. There is a consistently strong demand for individuals with BA (Public Policy) and MPP degrees in government, especially local governments and specialized public agencies (working in the water, air quality, transport, and economic development areas), and among non-profit and even for-profit groups. Individuals with analytical skills, versatility with diverse research methods (both quantitative and qualitative), and policy internship experience are ideally suited for these positions and are highly sought after for their problem-solving abilities. The School of Public Policy is already heavily engaged with public agencies in Southern California – city governments, county governments, water districts, air quality boards, transportation authorities, health-care districts, school districts, and the state insurance commission, to name a few – as well as with nonprofits – community-based organizations, foundations, grassroots NGOs, and trade associations. All of these entities are looking for individuals with Master’s training and analytical policy skills. Students with a BA+MPP would be excellent candidates to fill these positions. The School’s MPP program is now already three years old, and has been growing (we admitted 22 students in Fall 2018). We feel it would be a good time to leverage interest in the MPP program within our large (existing) undergraduate public policy program and to facilitate entry of strongly-prepared undergraduate students into it.

Plan for evaluation of the program. The effectiveness of the program will be evaluated by monitoring the extent to which it increases the quality of students in the BA (Public Policy) and MPP programs. The metrics of evaluation will include GPA, graduation rates, job placement, and acceptance to advanced degree programs.

2. Program

Admission Criteria. The proposed 5-year joint BA+MPP program will have two timeframes for admission, one of which is for conditional admission: 1) preliminary conditional admission as an incoming lower-division student, and 2) admission as a junior student meeting admission criteria. The School of Public Policy proposes to offer outstanding freshman the opportunity to apply for preliminary (conditional) admission into the joint BA+MPP program based on their undergraduate admission qualifications. This can serve as a recruiting tool as well as increase participation in the program. Official admittance would still require meeting the course and GPA criteria and satisfactory
progress in the undergraduate major.

Preliminary Conditional Admission Criteria

- Intent to enroll in the UCR BA+MPP Program
- High School GPA > 3.6
- SAT I combined score > 1950

Official Admission Criteria

- Enrolled in the UCR Public Policy Program
- 3.3 GPA in major (upper division classes only, minimum of 12 units to be completed by the end of junior year)
- 3.0 GPA overall (with transfer students needing to have a combined – UCR and prior institute – overall GPA of 3.0)
- The GRE requirement would be waived for admission to the BA+MPP

Joint BA+MPP Degree Program Requirements. The BA (Public Policy) program course requirements remain as currently outlined in the general catalog. Additional course and unit requirements for the BA+MPP program are outlined below and a sample program is provided.

The joint BA+MPP program will require students to do the full coursework required of the two-year MPP program during their senior and fifth years in the BA+MPP program, including the 8-unit capstone project (PBPL 289a,b) during their fifth year in the BA+MPP program. The “space” for the additional graduate coursework in their senior year will come from the BA+MPP students being able to substitute Master’s specialization area courses for some of the upper-division elective courses that BA (Public Policy) students are required to take in two of six policy specialization tracks.

During the MPP portion of this program, students must maintain a grade-point average of (both overall and in the major) of at least 3.0 for all course work, both cumulatively and for each quarter of enrollment. If the student's GPA falls below 3.0 (for either the overall or major), he/she may be dropped from the program.

Note that students enrolled in the BA+MPP program will need to successfully complete the two-quarter, 8-unit capstone team project, with both written and oral presentations, which is required of all MPP students (PBPL 289a and PBPL 289b). Students must meet with their faculty mentor throughout the winter and spring quarters of the Master’s year to discuss their capstone project and its progress. The written capstone project must be submitted by week 9 of the student’s sixth quarter in the joint BA+MPP program. Any deviation from this plan, such as a disruption in enrollment for one or more quarters, may cause the student to be dropped from the program.
Sample BA+MPP Degree Course Plan. The following table outlines a sample program for a student in the proposed joint BA+MPP program. Students will average 17 units per quarter in the BA portion of this proposed program, including two internship courses (PBPL 198I, each worth 4 units) and six occurrences of PBPL 191 (for a total of 12 units total), which is a course that requires students to attend the public policy outside-speakers seminar series and to write a critique on the seminars they attended.

### Application Details
Interested students must submit a Statement of Interest and Eligibility (SIE) before the start of their final undergraduate year but are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

### Projected Flowchart of Student Applicants
The following flowchart illustrates how students may move into and out of the joint BA+MPP program in public policy. Students must maintain academic standards (i.e. GPA > 3.3 in major and 3.0 overall) or they will not be permitted to remain in the program.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST YEAR (48 Units Completed)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 001A</td>
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<td>ECON 003</td>
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<td>PHYSICAL SCIENCE</td>
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<td>PBPL 001</td>
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<th>SECOND YEAR (108 Units Completed)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</td>
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<td>PBPL 002</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL NAT SCI/MATH</td>
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<td>PBPL 191 (SEMINAR) (2 units)</td>
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<th>THIRD YEAR (162 Units Completed)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</td>
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<td>UPPER-DIVISION MAJOR</td>
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<td>PBPL 101</td>
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<td>PBPL 198I</td>
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<th>FOURTH YEAR (204 Units Completed)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<td>PBPL 200</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBPL 210</td>
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<td>PBPL 222</td>
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<td>PBPL 191 (SEMINAR) (2 units)</td>
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<th>FIFTH YEAR (240 Units Completed)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PBPL 202</td>
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<td>PBPL 216</td>
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<td>PBPL 298I</td>
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Students would graduate with a BA in Public Policy after their senior year and would graduate with MPP after their year at Master’s standing.

Catalog entry

Joint BA + MPP Program. The School of Public Policy offers a combined five-year BA+MPP program in public policy, designed to allow successful UCR public policy BA graduates to complete the Master of Public Policy degree in one additional year. Applicants to the joint BA+MPP program should apply before the end of their junior year, provided that the student was a UCR BA (Public Policy) student with a cumulative GPA at least 3.0 overall and 3.3 in the public policy major. This must include a minimum of 12 units of upper-division PBPL courses to be completed by the end of spring quarter of the junior year (or the student's year of application). Similarly, transfer students must complete 12 units of upper-division PBPL courses. However, their combined GPA (minimum 3.0) will be calculated from their UCR and prior institution transcripts. The application to the joint BA+MPP program must include at least two recommendation letters from UCR Academic Senate faculty members, at least one of whom must be a faculty member in the School of Public Policy. Matriculation into the graduate portion of the joint degree program occurs in the fall quarter following the senior year, provided: (a) the MPP application is accepted, (b) throughout senior year, the student is an Public Policy BA major with cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher, (c) by the end of the senior year, the student completes the Public Policy BA degree requirements and receives his or her BA in Public Policy.

Incoming freshman students who are applying to the BA (Public Policy) program may simultaneously apply for preliminary admission provided they meet all the criteria established for the BA (Public
Policy) program. Preliminary conditional admission status is maintained as long as the student is a BA (Public Policy) student in good standing with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Preliminarily-admitted students would still need to apply for full admission before the end of their junior year as described above.

3. Projected need, resource requirements, student support

As noted in the introduction, in keeping with the framework established by the CEP and Graduate Council, this combined program is primarily a recruitment tool, intended to leverage the increasing interest in graduate education to attract top freshmen into the BA (Public Policy) program, and to attract top UC Riverside BA students into the MPP program.

In the BA program, the prospect of entering the program at year three and completing both the BA and MPP in a total of five years should attract students who are highly motivated and more likely than average to make it through the program. While we do have a number of students who choose to study Public Policy as entering freshmen, a larger proportion of our undergraduates discover the field after their first year at UC Riverside. The combined BA+MPP program will increase the visibility of the undergraduate major to entering students. It will also raise the visibility of the major to social science students who are already enrolled but might have been unaware of the prospects offered by the discipline. We expect that the opportunity of earning a joint BA+MPP in three years will be highly attractive to community college transfer students as well. Enrollment of community college students has recently become an urgent priority for the University of California. Combined with ongoing increases in admissions standards, this should increase both retention and the overall quality of the students.

In the MPP program, we anticipate growth in combined-program enrollment initially of only a few (6-8) students per year, but we anticipate significant growth in the years ahead. Similar five-year co-term programs in other disciplines at other UC campuses have been quite popular with students. Rapid growth in the proposed program would be welcome and would significantly increase overall enrollment in the MPP program. There would be no expectation of support for the participants in the combined BA+MPP program. Teaching assistant opportunities would be available to students in the combined program during their fifth year (as they are to students in the regular MPP program).

Historically, two to three students each year graduating from the MPP program have gone on to join Ph.D. programs in the social sciences at UCR and other institutions. While the School of Public Policy does not currently have a Ph.D. program, we anticipate students in the BA+MPP program could enter Ph.D. programs in such field as economics, political science or sociology, through the fall application process after receiving their MPP degree.

In short, the main effect of the program should be to increase the quality of students in the BA (Public Policy) and MPP programs, and achieve a modest increase in enrollment levels. Similarly, it should increase the employability of students produced by the BA (Public Policy) and MPP programs, and help meet the increasing demand for public policy students with graduate degrees.

Resources. Note that each student in the combined program is essentially just a regular student (in the BA program, or, in fifth year, in the MPP program), and requires the same resources as a regular student at the same level. Also, because of the highly selective nature of the admissions requirements, BA and MPP enrollments will be modestly affected, at least initially. Thus, the program requires no change in faculty, courses, or resources such as library, computing, equipment, space, etc. Likewise, the program requires no change in levels or mechanisms for student funding.
The program does not require any administrative support, as both the undergraduate and graduate programs in public policy are fully managed within SPP. The existing student services/advising staff will advise the students in the BA+MPP program. The administrative functions for admission to the MPP program are performed by a Graduate Affairs Committee; this committee will also be responsible for administering the BA+MPP program.

Finally, only to the extent that existing resources allow, BA students with “preliminary conditional admission” status will be given additional advising appropriate for MPP-bound students.

4. Changes in Senate regulations

No changes in Senate regulations are required.
I believe that I indicated already that the SPP Executive Committee approved this proposal with the wording change.

If not, I so indicate now.

Steve

Steven Brint
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Follow us on Twitter: @ucr_spp
May 1, 2019

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
   Riverside Division

FR: Steven Brint, Chair
    SPP Executive Committee

RE: Proposal for a joint Public Policy BA/MPP five-year combined program

The SPP Executive Committee reviewed the proposal and approves it with one change: On page one, the proposal states, “Participation in the joint degree program is initiated through an application for admission prior to the students’ junior year. This sentence should read “prior to the end of the students’ junior year” so that the statement is consistent with the rest of the proposal.
The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the proposal for a joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program at their June 7, 2019 meeting. CEP was supportive of the proposal; however, the curriculum and proposal are lacking the professional development requirement for graduate students (Graduate Regulation 1.6). This requirement needs to be added to the curriculum as well as the catalog copy.
June 14, 2019

To: Dylan Rodriguez  
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Boris Maciejovsky, Chair  
Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Re: Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program

CoDEI would like to request additional information regarding the likely diversity of the new program. Specifically, we request:

- the demographic breakdown for the current Bachelor’s and Master’s Programs, respectively.
- the demographic breakdown for the current Bachelor’s students who satisfy the requirement for admission to the 3+2 program.
- plans to monitor and to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups in the application and selection process
June 4, 2019

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Wee Liang Gan, Chair
Committee on Courses

Re: Proposed Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program

The Committee on Courses reviewed the proposed Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program at their June 4, 2019 meeting and did not note any concerns from their purview of courses of instruction.
RE: [Campus Review] Proposed Degree Program: Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program at their June 6, 2019 meeting.

A side-by-side catalog entry needs to be included in the proposal so upon approval, the Office of Student Affairs, Marketing & Communications knows where this program should appear in the catalog. The catalog entry should provide language that indicates the course work for this new program will be the same as the regular programs so students are aware and course work for the program is made clear. Admissions requirements need to be added to the catalog copy as well. Please refer to the Electrical Engineering BS+MS catalog entry if you need a sample.

Graduate Council would like clarification on the faculty evaluation process for the Statement of Interest. What exactly is required in the Statement of Interest? Is there a committee that evaluates admissions to the program? What are the eligibility requirements?

The Council found the course load to be quite heavy and there were concerns about students’ ability to finish the degree in 5 years with the course load as it currently stands. Please provide feedback that this course load is indeed reasonable for students to succeed in this program.

Admissions requirements for transfer students should be addressed in the proposal.
PLANNING & BUDGET

May 28, 2019

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Katherine Kinney, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget

Re: [Campus Review] Proposed Degree Program: Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program

Planning & Budget reviewed the proposal for a new joint BA/MPP 5-year combined degree program at their May 28, 2019 meeting. The committee was supportive of the proposal. The School of Public Policy has more than adequate resources to support this program as envisioned.
June 11, 2019

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: David Volz, Chair
Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions reviewed the proposed Joint Public Policy BA/MPP 5-Year Combined Degree Program at their June 11, 2019 meeting and have the following requests:

- Please provide justification for selecting the preliminary conditional admission criteria for entering freshman (high school GPA > 3.6 and SAT I combined score > 1950). Please provide a clear rationale for these thresholds, as it is unlikely that there will be a sufficient pool of eligible applicants to support this program over the long-term.

- The SAT I combined score is based on the old SAT scoring system. Please insert clarification that this score is based on the old scoring system, and please insert (within parentheses) the equivalent SAT score using the new SAT scale (400-1600) and corresponding concordance table (e.g., a 1950 based on the old scale = 1380 based on the new scale). This should be included to avoid confusion.