Questions to be answered:

1. Effect of the merger on the undergraduate curriculum:

   b) Although the proposal says the majors will be "provided for through" the separate disciplines, we cannot find a discussion of undergraduate advising. Is advising currently done by the three disciplines separately? If so, we need to be assured that the change from departments to a school will not negatively affect undergraduate advising.

   Each of the three programs (Economics, Political Science, and Sociology) has an "Undergraduate Coordinator" who does the academic advising (while faculty members continue to mentor students). There is no plan to change this arrangement. Both Political Science and Economics also have e-campus advisors supported through Extended Campus and Sociology will be adding an e-campus advisor in the fall of 2011 (as part of a MOU with Extended Campus).

2. Effects of the merger on the graduate curriculum: The proposal states that the "graduate program will be delivered through the existing MPP".

   a) The Graduate Council report asked for specifics on how the graduate minors will be administered and who will be the Graduate School contact for the graduate minors. Please answer these two questions.

   The MPP does not offer a minor program, although it is currently possible to get a graduate minor in Political Science and Sociology. We have had very few students who do graduate minors in these disciplines over the years so in the past, the MPP Director served as the graduate contact for Political Science minors (as he is a Political Scientist) and the Sociology Chair served as the Graduate contact (the Sociology Liaison now acts in this role). If needed (i.e., disciplinary graduate minors increase), we will move the oversight of graduate minors to the Graduate Program Director.

   b) You do refer to an additional .5FTE for extra administrative support for the graduate program, but more details are needed.

When the proposal was written, we thought that we would be buying back 0.5 FTE from a "shared" OS2 position with Women Studies. As it turns out, that position was really a 1.0 position in Political Science and already on the books so we didn't need to "hire" a new position. When her responsibilities for the Women Studies program were completed, the OS2 added the role of Graduate Program Assistant. We currently have 4.0 FTE support staff in the School: 2.0 FTE in Economics (including a .5 FTE appointment for e-campus advising by a staff member), 1.0 FTE in Political Science (including the 0.50 FTE reassigned to the Graduate Program), and 1.0 FTE in Sociology.
c) Two of the current departments offer their own graduate minors, and so those students need an academic advisor for the minor for programs and exams, etc. Will faculty with this expertise continue to be available as the hiring emphasis changes to public policy?

We continue to hire faculty in one of the three disciplines (Economics, Political Science, and Sociology) as each will hold their tenure in one of the Programs. All new hires will be responsible for both graduate and undergraduate teaching and mentoring, so any new colleagues will have as part of their job description mentoring undergraduate majors and minors, as well as graduate minors in their discipline.

3. Confirmation that funding is available. The Curriculum Council asks for a letter from the dean confirming the promise of the indicated funding for the director as well as for increasing of support staff from 3FTE to 3.5 FTE. Depending on the answer to 1c) the last number might need to be increased to 4.0.

Sorry for the confusion about the changes in our support staff - it's been a pretty confusing year all around. We do have additional staff in the form of e-campus advisors, each supported through an MOU with Extended Campus approved and signed by the Dean.

I have attached below, a copy of an e-mail from the Dean of Liberal Arts regarding his continued support of the proposal, as designated by his signature.

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Lach, Denise

From: Rodgers, Lawrence
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 2:27 PM
To: Lach, Denise
Subject: funding for PP

Hello Denise:

I understand that questions have been raised by the Faculty Senate curriculum committee regarding the budget for the school director's position. In that FS's budget committee has already passed the proposal, I'm unclear why the curriculum committee is not accepting the endorsement of the committee charged with overseeing the salary question and thus appearing to move outside the scope of their charge. Nonetheless, I'll reiterate that the college is prepared to oversee the delivery of resources necessary to fund to director's position.

Larry

Larry Rodgers, Dean
College of Liberal Arts
Oregon State University