

**College of William & Mary Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy
Spring 2013 Board of Advisors Meeting**

Washington, DC

04/11/13

Executive Summary

Next Boarding Meeting: Williamsburg, November 15, 2013. Option to attend football game November 16.

Jefferson Program Status Summary: TJPPP is successfully attracting students. The MPP class of 2015 has 22 admitted students, including 3 BA/MPP students. There are over 60 undergraduate majors. 50% of graduating class has jobs; there has been some difficulty with placement due to uncertain economy. However, the class of 2014 has had success with placement at internships. The Board has been helpful building partnerships to assist with placements at jobs and internships. TJPPP is engaged in a due diligence process to explore adding an international focus to the MPP, and especially building on resources from W&M's USAID award that is funding the AidData Center for Development Policy.

Advisor Notes: Nominations Committee is putting together guidance to articulate responsibilities for active board participation. While recruiting new Board members is not an urgent priority, TJPPP is always interested in promising candidates.

Finances: Contributions are on track to meet FY 2013 goal of \$90,000. TJPPP encourages donations through the endowment to exploit matching, as well as donations for the move to a new building in 2015. The Brenna Vorhis Endowment has raised over \$5000. Goal is to establish an endowment of \$80-100,000. President Trice has donated \$25,000 and offered a \$25,000 match.

W&M Guests: A&S Dean Kate Conley and A&S Executive Director for Development Ginny Elwell attended. A new Vice-President for Development is coming on board in the near future. The W&M Capital Campaign is satisfied with current progress.

Financial Support: Checks may be made to the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy. Be sure to write Account #2918 on the Memo line. Mail to us at the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy, The College of William & Mary, POB 8795 Williamsburg, VA, 23187-8795. For credit cards, please call us at (757) 221-2368 or email Barbara Boyer bwboye@wm.edu.

**College of William & Mary Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy
Spring 2013 Board of Advisors Meeting**

Washington, DC

04/11/13

Summary Report

- Introduction: President of the Board Trice commenced the meeting with introductions and a brief overview of the state of the program.
 - Currently an exciting time in the history of the program. Program continues to grow, with 21 admitted graduate students for next year and over 60 undergraduates. Consensus suggests 5-year BA/MA program has been a success. International expansion offers additional opportunity.
 - Vibrant board has remained a constant in program's development, with a unique level of student engagement and mentoring. This tradition will continue, as evidenced by the outpouring of support for the Brenna Vorhis memorial scholarship.
 - Job market concerns remain significant.

- Finance Report – Paul Decker
 - Fiscal year giving on track to meet FY goal of \$90,000. Board reminded to give and alumni contributions growing slow as well. Emphasis on keeping up momentum of past years.

- Christian Klein – Nominations Reports
 - Two action items have emerged regarding board nominations:
 - Outreach to BOA members with expiring terms.
 - Articulate responsibilities and produce guidance for active board participation.
 - Active Board currently totals 30 members.
 - Members discussed necessity and strategy for recruiting additional members and reminded current members to submit nominations. While members expressed general interest in expanding board membership, others cautioned to keep the board a manageable size.

- Virginia Elwell (W&M Executive Director of Development)– Remarks re: Campaign Planning
 - Current finance campaign on track.
 - Matthew Lambert, of Lambert Hall fame, has been selected as the new VP for Development after a long process. WM Dean and leadership very excited for his arrival.

- Stafford and McBeth Comments re: Current MPP Students and Incoming Class Discussion
 - Class profiles included in the materials.
 - Incoming student profiles - 39 offers made. Program typical aspires to 20-25 incoming students.
 - Last year saw lower rates of return than typically. Analysis of similar program revealed students generally submitted more applications at more places and some ultimately elected not to leave workforce.
 - Consequently, doubly aggressive this year in recruitment. 22 yes, 3 no, 2 deferred. 13 have not responded. Offers expire April 15. This year's applicant pool was very strong.
 - Among "top-tier" candidates. 7/10 have accepted. 3 offers to BA/MPPs (this program has been successful).
 - Trice endowment will handle 2 BA/MPPs, third will come from the general pool.
 - Events: 2 Policy Dialogues in Fall, 3-day DC program in Fall, 2 Policy Dialogues in Spring.
 - Board has assisted in building partnerships to aid student placement. e.g. Nature Conservancy has accepted multiple students for summer internships.
 - Discussion of students' post-graduation plans:
 - Sequester and economic uncertainty remains a challenge for student placement post-graduation.
 - Private sector offers are coming in from places where TJPPP has a known track record.
 - TJPPP has a variety of strategies to inform students about possible career paths, including Policy Dialogues and partnering with the career center. Especially important to emphasize that MPP skills are applicable to many careers.
 - Program may broaden perspectives, but it's important to note that it's up to students to determine what they do with education. Members discussed practical post-graduation aspirations.
 - Program is connected to the best list-servs and "usual suspects" for job opportunities.
 - Discussion of student networking skills:
 - McBeth: New students tend to be underprepared for networking on the first fall trip. This year, on the heels of this experience, we invited the second year students to a spring session that went really well.
 - Building student outreach. Facebook & LinkedIn used as primary communication method. Admitted Student Day highly successful this year, thanks to work of current graduate student in planning the event.
 - PRS continues with the same model. Currently looking for projects. Probably doing a project with the JCC School System, Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic Project (SLR and impacted projects), Beyond Boobs (Breast Cancer advocacy), Virginia Employment commission. Range of projects underway. Still looking for projects. Government projects have been very difficult to organize.
 - Members testified to the value of this program for their firms and professional development for students.

- Two new faculty members joining the program next year – Nick Sanders, taking over micro course. Also hiring international trade economist John Lopresti. Next board meeting. They will attend next meeting to be introduced to the BOA.
- Undergraduate Program
 - Stafford: Undergraduate program going strong. Paul Manna’s honor student won national award. Manna offering fall Intro to Public Policy to garner student interest in the topic. Stafford will offer an undergraduate PRS project for the first time next year. Students will work on one project. Manna currently working with building connections with undergraduate alums. Building lifelong connections between undergraduate alums and current undergrad students. We may consider bringing on an additional undergraduate liaison to the board.
- Financial Support Discussion
 - Update on the Brenna Vorhis Endowment: We asked for funds immediately following her passing for a \$4000 dollar award to be given at graduation this year. Response has been amazing. Donations have come in from Vorhis’ friends and family, students, faculty, and the BOA. We raised well over \$5000. Our goal is to establish an endowment of \$80-100k to support a yearly \$4000 award. President Trice has donated \$25k, with a \$25k challenge including for amounts already come in. We have another pledge of \$26k from Vorhis’ friend’s father. We are well on our way to the goal. By 2015, we hope to be over the 80k mark.
 - Members asked how the program would prefer donations.
 - Stafford: We would prefer donations to the endowment to exploit matching. We also encourage donations for Tyler move.
 - W&M Executive Director of Development Ginny Elwell: We are currently exploring naming opportunities. There will be TJPPP dedicated spaces and shared spaces available.
 - Members encouraged a more assertive fundraising stance from TJPPP. “Ask unreasonable numbers!” Ask what you want, and then we’ll work to that goal. Encourage people to stretch.
 - Members expressed interest in naming rights for the new facility and TJPPP’s share of the WM Capital Campaign. Each of the departments is reaching out for dedicated funds. Donors can also contribute to the greater project.
- Discussion of TJPPP Future:
 - Possibilities for expansion of TJPPP:
 - Expansion of TJPPP is complex because incremental growth does not make sense logistically. Program could expand to 25 or 30 students per class, but beyond that it would be necessary to have 2 sets of core classes and expand to 50.
 - It is important to maintain student quality when expanding the program to retain faculty interest in teaching classes.
 - Discussion of new international focus:
 - Will create a new pool of students to draw from, allowing the program to expand while maintaining quality.

- International focus will be a concentration within MPP, because MPP is a well-recognized degree.
- Will require more faculty to teach in the program, TJ will continue to share resources with other departments and use strategies such as offering courses every other year.
- Stafford has visited other internationally-oriented public policy programs, and there seems to be room in the VA system for TJ to add an international concentration to MPP.
- Discussion of development as emphasis in international program:
 - Stafford identified two reasons a) Other programs are focusing on development - it's where the action is. For instance, Georgetown has a similar project. b) W&M received \$25 million USAID award for AidData project that tracks the use of international aid.
 - Member noted that foreign direct investment is becoming a more prominent element of international policy, and suggested the program should focus on governance and trade and investment. AidData is demonstrating the weaknesses of international development, so TJ can be on the frontlines of the shift toward foreign direct investment and governance.
 - Trice emphasized that by stressing quantitative skills the international program will be relevant regardless of trends in international policy. The program will be political economics with quantitative bent.
 - Member encouraged TJ to build on AidData and seek more opportunities for projects with the federal government, giving students more real-world experience while they are in school
 - Next steps for international concentration are obtaining faculty buy-in and completing due diligence.
- Brief discussion of how proposed merger with Eastern Virginia Medical School could lead to more focus on health policy or dual degree opportunities. However, since EVMS is in Norfolk the two-campus issue makes dual degree programs difficult. The same problem has arisen with dual degree opportunities with VIMS, although first joint MPP-Marine Science student in many years will be starting the fall.

Meeting adjourned. Reception followed.