

Report

CAPPA Accreditation Review Panel

**Masters of Public Administration and Masters of Public Policy
Programs**

**Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan**

David A. Good (chair), Paul Thomas, Wynne Young

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Introduction

The Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Accreditation Review Panel was established in October 2011. The panel members were David Good, Professor, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria who served as chair; Paul Thomas, Professor Emeritus, University of Manitoba; and Wynne Young, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport, Government of Saskatchewan.

Members of the review panel received a major volume of relevant materials from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) in October 2011. These materials were comprehensive, of high professional quality, and were particularly useful to the review team. The documentation included: an application for accreditation; founding documents for the school; documents on strategic directions, achievements to date, student enrolment plan, student profile, and student testimonials; MPA, MPP, and certificate course information and fact sheets, course outlines, information on the internship program; governance documents including the signed MOU and agreed operating principles between University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan; documentation on the relationship between JSGS and the Province of Saskatchewan; information on the utilization of and satisfaction with executive development programs; and faculty CVs.

The Panel met on October 11th, 2011 by teleconference to review the principles of mission-based accreditation and to discuss their information needs in order to undertake the review. Information on the relationship between JSGS and the Province of Saskatchewan which was requested of the School by the review team was provided immediately. In addition, at the request of the review panel, JSGS ensured that students who had recently graduated from the program were available to the panel. The three members of the panel undertook a site visit in Regina on October 20 and in Saskatoon on October 21.

Dr. Michael Atkinson, Executive Director of JSGS and Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Director of JSGS organized two full days of meetings with a broad range of faculty, provosts, deans, students, support staff, provincial officials, and others. This included: Provosts and Vice Presidents, Academic of the two universities; the Vice President, Research of the University of Regina; the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Saskatchewan; the JSGS Director of Outreach and Training; 13 faculty members; 3 graduates of the program; 4 students currently in the program; 7 support staff members including administrative managers, financial officers, and a communications specialist; the Deputy Minister to the Premier, Chair of the Public Service Commission, and Associate Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of Saskatchewan; the Executive Director, Western Economic Diversification; and the President of the Saskatchewan chapter of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

The mission of JSGD states: *We are an interdisciplinary team of scholars and practitioners who seek to improve the knowledge base from which policy makers draw,*

the critical abilities of public policy practitioners, and the understanding of how and why policy is created.

To provide more specificity, the aim of the School is: *To be recognized among our peers and among practitioners as Canada's best policy school: a centre for advanced education in policy and administration, a source of respected policy advice and commentary, and the home of world-class research and scholarship.*

RECOMMENDATION

The review panel unanimously recommends that Masters of Public Administration program and the Masters of Public Policy program of the Shoyama-Johnson Graduate School of Public Policy be granted accreditation for the full term of seven years.

Since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the two university Presidents in June 2007 which formally created the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, the School has made great strides toward implementing its mission and achieving its aim. JSGS has major strengths that the review panel would like to highlight.

The Johnston-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

1. The effective and enlightened leadership of the Executive Director and the Director are universally acknowledged as critical to the early success of the new school and strong leadership will be critical to its future.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities which created the innovative institution – JSGS – and the subsequent Operating Principles Addendum have become living documents reflecting the trust and respect essential for the effective operation of a strong collaborative partnership.
3. JSGS commitment to collaboration and consultation is highly valued by faculty, students, staff, and stakeholders and underpins an open and collegial decision-making process.
4. There is a strong commitment to multi-disciplinary research and teaching, to link theory and practice, and to ensure high quality policy and administratively relevant graduate education.

Programs

1. This is a strong program including an increasingly well-defined core and elective courses.
2. The outreach and professional training programs, targeted to practitioners particularly in the provincial government, are effective and well received and attended.

3. The programs are supported by a strategic and operational planning process that produces meaningful plans and targets with regular reporting across the programs, all of which are important for continuous improvement.

Faculty

1. A multi-disciplinary faculty which supports strong and effective collaboration across colleagues, disciplines, scholars, and practitioners.
2. A faculty which is increasingly linked and networked with provincial government departments and agencies, supported by a strong outreach and training program which serves to reinforce the relevance of their research and can continue to strengthen their teaching in a professional school.
3. A faculty with a significant research and publication record and a demonstrated capacity to secure external research funding, thereby building bridges between training students and advancing policy relevant knowledge.
4. Faculty expertise across a relatively broad range of policy areas with generally good balance between scholarly research and practitioner based perspectives.
5. A faculty age structure which is relatively well balanced through recent and planned recruitment providing the opportunity for mentoring, injection of new ideas, and joint collaboration.

Staff

1. An effective, engaged, and highly professional staff with sufficient resources to provide a comprehensive program of support to the Executive Director, Director, faculty, and students essential for efficient internal administration and high quality external communications.

Students

1. An engaged and diverse community of students who have appreciated the significant opportunities to be consulted on, and participate in, the development and operation of the School.
2. An internship program, highly valued by students fortunate enough to have participated and actively sought by others, all of whom are anxious to have practical real-world learning opportunities and experience to complement their studies.
3. Students through their networks, cross campus collaboration, and their Association, have played and can continue play an important role in helping to bridge the different cultures and locations of the two campuses thereby reinforcing a single integrated School.