# Form B

**California State University, Sacramento**

**Program Proposal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Unit:</th>
<th>Date of Submission to School Dean:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy and Administration (PPA)</td>
<td>September 7, 2005</td>
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**Requested Effective:** Fall X Spring, 2005.

**Name of Contact Person, if not Department Chair:**

**Title of the Program:**
Certificate in Collaborative Governance

**Type of Program Proposal:**

- **Modification in Existing Program:**
  - Substantive Change
  - Non-Substantive Change
  - Deletion of Existing Program

- **New Programs**
  - Initiation (Projection) of New Program on to Master Plan
  - New Degree Programs
    - Regular Process
    - Fast Track Process
    - Pilot Process
  - New Minor, Concentration, Option, Specialization, Emphasis
    - New Certificate Program

**Please Note:** Form B is to be used only as a Cover Form. Additional information is requested for each of the above as noted in the corresponding procedure in the Policies and Procedures for Initiation, Modification, Review and Approval of Courses and Academic Programs found at [http://www.csus.edu/acaf/univmanual/index.htm](http://www.csus.edu/acaf/univmanual/index.htm)
Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification.

The Department recognizes that public policy problems increasingly involve complicated interactions among a variety of agencies at different levels of government, as well as interactions between government and various interest/community groups. Skill at managing such interactions has become highly valued.

Accordingly, working closely with Sacramento State's Center for Collaborative Policy Making, the Department has been developing expertise in collaborative governance. The Department has offered two elective courses in this area (PPA 270 and PPA 271) that have proved very popular with students. Faculty members have monitored the classes closely and have been very positive about them as well.

After extensive consideration we are now planning to take an important further step. Reflecting on the evaluations of the courses, the quality of our interaction with the Center for Collaborative Policy Making, the continued national attention to collaborative methods, and positive input from students, the faculty is proposing establishment of a graduate certificate in collaborative policy and decision-making. The certificate would incorporate the two existing collaborative policy making courses as well as a new, intensive advanced practice class (PPA 296L). We believe this program will fill an important niche and further establish our program as innovative.

We wish to stress two sources of information that underscore student support for our plan to move our specialization in collaborative policy making to the next level. We surveyed students about several matters in fall 2004, in preparation for this self study (we also surveyed alumni and faculty). A total of 81 students responded to the survey, the results of which are referenced at several places in this report (see Appendix C for a complete summary of the results). The student survey indicated that while most were generally satisfied with the courses and instruction, they desired further elective options. We then decided to use a portion of an evening class to probe further about what students wanted. We found a surprisingly strong consensus about the desirability of a collaborative policy making certificate, even if this required students to take one additional, new elective class.

Fiscal Impact

We believe the fiscal impact of this new certificate will be minimal. The Center for Collaborative Policy has expressed willingness to fund the new course (PPA 296L) during the first year or two. During this period the PPA Department plans to conduct a thorough evaluation to ensure that the new certificate can be self supporting and will not have an adverse impact on other electives and course offerings; we will not continue the certificate if serious problems are identified. Furthermore, the certificate is designed specifically for current PPA students or for PPA alumni who wish to return to Sacramento State to obtain the new certificate. Additionally, the one new course in the certificate program will be offered during off-peak hours, and should not create any additional need for classroom space.

Consultation

We have shared our plans with the other departments in the College and with the College of Business Administration. We will share the results of our consultation with the appropriate curriculum committees. Based on prior consultation about our collaborative policy making courses we do not expect any concerns.