MEMORANDUM

TO: DENISE LACH, PH.D., DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

FROM: RENEE A. IRVIN, PH.D., ASSOCIATE HEAD, SCHOOL OF PLANNING, PUBLIC POLICY & MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, PUBLIC POLICY

DATE: 8/16/2017

CC: RICH MARGERUM, PH.D., HEAD, SCHOOL OF PLANNING, PUBLIC POLICY & MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

My colleagues Rich Margerum (Head, School of PPPM) and Jessica Matthiesen (Director, BA/BS in Planning, Public Policy & Management) and I have reviewed the proposal for OSU's new BS in Public Policy Program.

Due to high interest among students (as shown in the proposal survey) in a BSPP program, as well as high interest among public sector employers, the demonstrated market demand indicates that OSU's BSPP program will be very successful. OSU's particular strengths are structured into the program with the specializations in Environmental Policy, Rural Policy, and Social Policy; any of which would provide excellent skills to bring to graduates' careers in Oregon and elsewhere. A fourth possible specialization, Crime Policy, would, as noted by survey respondents, be another strong area for expansion in the future.

Structurally, the BSPP is very similar to UO's BA/BS in Planning, Public Policy, & Management (PPPM) in terms of credits, prerequisites, etc. The curriculum itself, however, differs as noted by the proposal on page 14, with UO's incorporation of specific coursework in planning and nonprofit administration in its PPPM degree. UO's program director notes two sources of competition for students. First, UO could lose some students who are interested in a "just policy" degree. Second, the availability of the BSPP curriculum online may draw more non-traditional students who are transferring from community college. Nevertheless, the strong market for these skill sets suggests that OSU can also serve an important role in filling the need for policy analysts in Oregon and elsewhere.

We support OSU's BSPP degree proposal and look forward to continued collaboration across our policy schools.