

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

---

**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

To request approval of new academic programs:

- a) Bachelor of Public Safety Administration (43.9999) and
- b) Bachelor of Urban Design (04.0301).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Office of the University Provost has always worked with each college to monitor student demand and our ability to stay current in meeting the needs of the citizens of Florida by providing viable educational or occupational objectives. A number of our degree programs are in great demand by students. In a few instances, degree programs have been approved as “limited access” – with the number of majors capped because of facilities, equipment, or external resources. Some degree programs require a specific GPA for admission because of our experiences with the academic rigor of the program or the required professional behaviors. The latter programs admit all students with a specific GPA. A discussion in faculty governance earlier this year about access for all students admitted to FAU has led to the development of these two new academic programs.

The Bachelor of Public Safety Administration is designed to meet the increasing need for trained public safety and emergency/disaster personnel. It is a multi-disciplinary academic program requiring existing courses in all the Schools in the College for Design and Social Inquiry: Public Administration, Architecture, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Urban and Regional Planning. It will provide an opportunity for students unable to access other degree programs.

The Bachelor of Urban Design is designed for professionals and pre-professionals who are interested in the design of increasingly populated urban

areas. It is an inter-disciplinary program requiring existing courses in the School of Urban and Regional Planning and the School of Architecture. It will provide an additional opportunity for students interested in the design of urban space and the quality of the urban environment who may be unable to access other degree programs.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

Fall 2011

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Both these new academic programs will utilize existing courses and faculty and therefore have minimal budget implications.

---

**Supporting Documentation:**

**Executive Summaries**

**Presented by:**

**Dr. Diane Alperin, Interim Provost**

**Phone: (561) 297-3068**

**Email: [alperind@fau.edu](mailto:alperind@fau.edu)**

**Bachelor of Public Safety Administration Degree Proposal**  
**School of Public Administration, Florida Atlantic University**

**Executive Summary**

**Rationale**

Events subsequent to 9/11 and other major critical social/crime events and natural disasters have brought the public safety of the American people into the forefront of education and research. The area of public safety has, in recent years, become broader and more sophisticated. The increase in the number and types of occupations in law enforcement, fire, emergency management, and disaster response, as well as other positions related to terrorism and homeland security, has led to a corresponding increase in the demand for practitioners skilled in these areas and for administrators and leaders who are trained to effectively and efficiently manage personnel in complex situations.

The need for trained personnel in a variety of areas that address public safety and emergency/disaster response is growing rapidly. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook (2010-11 Edition), public safety employment growth is 14%, faster than the average for all occupations over the 2011-2018 period. Moreover, our BPSA graduates are expected to be first-line supervisors/managers, with an average income between \$44,200 and \$73,600.

The proposed Bachelor of Public Safety Administration (BPSA) degree is to respond to this need. In addition, the new degree is in line with Goal 2 of FAU's Strategic Plan, which is to meet statewide professional and workforce needs. The proposed Bachelor of Public Safety Administration is the only academic program within the Florida State University System, and thus, there will be no competition with any other university within our state system. In South Florida, the Miami-Dade State College offers a Bachelor of Applied Science with a major in Public Safety Management, which is similar to the Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice of the FAU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and has a large enrollment of over 3,000 students. In other words, the BPSA program does not compete with any Florida state university or state college as it offers a specific curriculum to meet professional workforce's specific skills.

**Curriculum**

The Bachelor of Public Safety Administration is unique as it offers skills and knowledge in public safety administration, in addition to emergency management, fire services, and law enforcement/corrections specializations. The BPSA is a two-year program at the upper division level that requires 60 credit hours, of which 18 are requirements, 12 are electives, and 30 are free electives available for students to customize their educational experience. Students are strongly encouraged to select electives that will broaden and enhance the educational opportunities afforded by the BPSA through consideration of minors. Of the 30 elective credits, at least 15

credits must be upper division courses (3000 or higher). The choice of free electives is a personal decision.

As shown in the proposal, the BPSA degree is a multi-disciplinary academic program requiring existing courses of the School of Public Administration, the School of Architecture, the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, the School of Social Work, and the School of Urban and Regional Planning. Students will take courses regularly offered by these five schools. This multi-disciplinary program enhances the strengths and collaborative efforts among schools within the College for Design and Social Inquiry by formalizing a number of the informal relationships that have existed for years. It allows for the achievement of certain economies of scale as no new courseware is required from any of the schools. Moreover, it enhances the relation between teaching and research by affording new teaching opportunities in developing areas of research. Finally, it builds inter-school collegiality and creates a mutually supportive environment that enhances students' access to the unique skill set through this program.

### **Resources**

As shown in the attached proposal, the total costs of the new program are very modest as the BPSA degree is a multi-disciplinary academic program requiring existing courses that are offered regularly by the five schools within the College for Design and Social Inquiry. In the first few years, financial implications are neutral in terms of resource allocation within the School of Public Administration (SPA) where the new degree program is housed. Its faculty members are already assigned to undergraduate and graduate teaching. In the long run, the financial implications of this new program are positive with respect to growth in FTEs as more faculty positions and more adjuncts will be needed to cope with our projected enrollments of 350 or 400 students (as shown in the proposal).

### **Implementation**

The proposed target implementation date is Fall 2011, with student recruitment beginning in Summer 2011. The projected student admission of 100 students in fall 2011, and an annual increase of 40-50% in the next five years. Both the faculty and facilities are already in place, well in advance of the BPSA's implementation.

**Bachelor of Urban Design Degree Proposal**  
**School of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida Atlantic University**

**Executive Summary**

More than 50% of global population and more than 80% of the U.S. population live in urban areas. An urban environment that enhances human experience by constructing and/or preserving meaningful places is crucial for urban regions to become more livable, just, economically effective, and environmentally sound. The proposed Bachelor of Urban Design is an undergraduate degree program for professionals and pre-professionals who are interested in the design of these urban areas. The program offers an interdisciplinary approach for students who plan to pursue a professional career in an urban discipline such as urban and regional planning, urban development policy, real estate development, as well as, design disciplines including architecture and landscape architecture. The program is an upper division program consisting of 60 credits, with a 33 credit core. The three main goals of the program are:

- (1) to foster a deeper understanding of the interrelationships among economic, social and political forces that shape the physical structure, character, and dynamic attributes of human settlements;
- (2) to train urban designers to design and shape parts of settlements such as the relationships between multiple built-forms, building typologies, public spaces, streets and other infrastructures, and the site and growth of cities;
- (3) to provide a degree program that allows students to integrate courses in the existing Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning and Bachelor of Architecture programs in such a way that it provides them with the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for a job in both private firms and public agencies at all levels of government, as well as non-governmental organizations pertaining to community development and design throughout South Florida and the United States.

**Job market and need**

Employment is expected to grow 19% from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations. The employment growth will be driven by the need for state and local governments to provide public services for an expanding population. Nongovernmental initiatives will also create employment growth in regards to historic preservation and community redevelopment. Specifically, urban planners and designers will be employed by (landscape) architecture, planning, and engineering design and consulting firms. Many of these firms are located in South Florida such as EDSA, Land Design South, DZP, Calvin Giordano and Associates, Zyscovich Architects, and Kilday Associates.

Colleges and universities across the U.S. have recognized the increased demand and need of urban designers and have created new urban design programs; for instance, the City College of New York, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of California Berkeley, Washington State in Saint Louis, the University of Michigan, Ball State University, the University of Washington, Arizona State University, the University of North Carolina Charlotte, the University of Colorado Denver, the University of Texas at Austin, and in Florida the University of Miami and the University of South Florida. However, most of these universities, including the University of South Florida and the University of Miami, offer urban design programs at the graduate degree level. Consequently, the demand for educational programs at the bachelor degree level to train knowledgeable and skillful urban designers has not been fulfilled. A Bachelor Degree in Urban Design program at FAU will help absorb this need.

**Impact on other programs and student success rates**

The School of Urban and Regional Planning has traditionally offered a graduate and undergraduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning. The undergraduate program experienced a large increase in the number of students in the last ten years (headcount of 30 in AY 2000-2001, 195 in AY 2010-2011). In order to fully understand the needs of this growing student body as well as the professional community, the School of Urban and Regional performed both an external and internal evaluation of its degree programs in AY

2008-2009 and AY 2009-2010. This evaluation led to the current proposal for a new upper division undergraduate Urban Design program which will provide the following benefits:

1. The program will provide relief for increasing number of enrollments in the Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning program by providing an additional choice for students that are interested in planning and design.
2. The program will allow us to offer an alternative bachelor degree program for students that have to be turned down by the School of Architecture because of the limited access to the Bachelor of Architecture program based on the cold desk requirement by the National Architectural Accrediting Board.
3. The program will help increase student success rates and retention for the School of Architecture. The program will ensure timely graduation for current students in architecture who cannot or decide not to continue professional degree in architecture.
4. The program will help with attracting and preparing the students who are interested in pursuing a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, and the future Master of Science in Architecture at the School of Architecture.
5. The program will increase visibility for the College for Design and Social Inquiry and FAU. It is the first educational program in the State University System of Florida that offers urban design knowledge and training at the bachelor degree level.

In addition, we believe that the interdisciplinary character of the Urban Design program will create a new direction in education, research, and practices based on an integration of knowledge from the Schools of Urban and Regional Planning and Architecture. It is expected to generate significant interest from the general public who are concerned with design of urban space and the quality of urban environment toward sustainable development, which is a crucial issue in Florida.

#### **Curriculum**

The proposed Urban Design program is built upon a strong foundation in terms of education, research, and practices in the areas of planning and design of the built environment in the School of Urban and Regional Planning and the School of Architecture, which both offer accredited professional degree programs. The program has been designed to utilize existing courseware and faculty from both units and can be offered at minimal cost. The program consists of 11 required courses (all within the 2 units), 5 courses from a list of 20 courses (which includes courses from 12 different departments) and 4 free electives. The program is carefully set up so that it allows students from either the Bachelor of Architecture or the Bachelor in Urban and Regional Planning to switch to Urban Design in their senior year.

#### **Implementation**

The proposed target implementation date is Fall 2011, with student recruitment beginning in Summer 2011. The projected student admission is 30 students for Fall 2011, conservative projections are that there will be about 100 students in the program within 5 years. The program requires a minimum budget that will pay adjuncts (local practitioners from leading design firms) to teach urban design studio courses.