

Academic Programs Committee, Subcommittee B

Final Resolution on the Proposal for an
International Master's in Environmental Policy (IMEP) at DKU
Lead Discussant -- Joshua Sosin, Classical Studies and Duke University Libraries

1 May 2015

The Nicholas School of the Environment (NSOE) and Sanford School of Public Policy propose a two-year International Masters in Environmental Policy (IMEP) for DKU; and the concurrent creation of a DKU Environmental Policy and Science Research Center. The goal of the effort is to create a program in China that delivers in 4 semesters (3 at DKU and 1 at Duke, as desired) that (i) combines elements of the Duke MPP and MEM, (ii) re-scopes the coursework and research to focus specifically on China and the world, and (iii) trains students to be specifically global leaders.

APC Subcommittee B met on 1 April 2015 to discuss the proposal with Erika Weinthal (NSOE) and Billy Pizer (Sanford and NIEPS), accompanied by Kelly Brownell (Dean, Sanford), Alan Townsend (Dean, NSOE), and Jim Zhang (NSOE). Upon subsequent consideration the Provost recommended to defer forwarding the proposal to Academic Council, pending completion of a market analysis, to be completed Summer 2015. On basis of the discussion in committee and the revised proposal (17 April 2015), APC commends the authors for the industry and care invested throughout the process, endorses the proposed program and Center, and recommends to the Provost as follows.

- (1) APC shares the concern that the Masters Advisory Committee (MAC) expressed about the possibility that initial student demand might prove to be lower than projected and so endorses the recommended market study and the adjustment to tempo that it will afford.
- (2) APC recommends, pending the Provost's satisfactory review of this study, that the proposal go forward to Academic Council for consideration in Fall 2015.
- (3) APC invites the Provost to report on the findings of the study to the full committee, so that all APC members may benefit from a discussion of factors bearing not only on this program, and its eventual review, but also future Masters programs, whether at Duke or DKU.
- (4) APC appreciates the symbiotic relationship between IMEP curriculum and Research Center, and encourages thoughtful cultivation of both curriculum and community, so that students have access to cutting edge research at DKU and research professors have the opportunity to help lead innovations in pedagogy.
- (5) APC sees IMEP as an opportunity to explore further avenues of interdisciplinary engagement, adding policy to an educational arena in which the sciences dominate (as IMEP rightly intends), but also finding innovative ways to enhance the social sciences

footprint in policy education and research. APC welcomes IMEP's commitment to engage in such outreach.

(6) APC endorses the plan to develop workshops and conferences at DKU during AY15/16, and sees this as an opportunity to help (a) define the essential value of the program to Chinese students (why China, why Chinese students?) and (b) scope the depth of engagement with the 'global' in the IMEP curriculum.

(7) APC acknowledges the experimental nature of the new program and urges detailed reporting at the third-year review on the measures for success identified by the program proposal – that is:

1. Financial outlook, including enrollments and potential administrative efficiencies
2. Global recruitment profile
3. Environmental scan of competitor programs and Chinese MoE developments
4. Intern / professional placement
5. Learning outcomes assessment
6. Lessons learned in research and classroom and potential for transfer to Duke MPP/MEM curricula in particular and Duke in general
7. Integration of degree program and Research Center
8. Lessons learned from bi-directional (Duke ⇔ DKU) 'semester abroad'
9. Prospects for executive education (identified as a core need in the commissioned Scoping Report)