

# NASPAA Annual Report

University of La Verne

Year: 2010

*Please note the following specific standard(s) are being monitored with regards to YOUR school: 2.2/2.3, 3.4/5.41*

**First Name:** Jack

**Last Name:** Meek

**Title:** Professor of Public Administration, Chair of the MPA Program

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**1. Number of completed Applications (for accredited degree program only) received for current academic year**

85

**2. Number of New Admissions (regular & probationary) for current academic year**

43

**3. Number of Full-Time and Part-Time New Enrollments for current academic year A) Full-time B) Part-time**

A) 36

B) 38

**4. Number of program degrees granted last academic year**

25

**5. Number of Core Faculty (based on the definition you used in your last self study)**

6

**6. Itemized Core Faculty**

Name	% of teaching load allocated to courses in the program (Use Integers from 1-100)	Dept. (of their tenure)
Jack Meek	40	Public Administration
Keith Schildt	40	Public Administration
Suzanne Beaumaster	40	Public Administration
Lisa Saye	40	Public Administration
Marcia Godwin	60	Public Administration
Matt Witt	40	Public Administration

**7. Budget for the accredited degree program (not the school or dept.) A) total for program, including salaries B) faculty and staff salaries only (incl. Adjuncts)**

A) 289,539

B) 259,141

**Standard 1.0 Eligibility for Peer Review**

No Change

### **Standard 2.0 Program Mission**

As reported last year, the current mission of the La Verne MPA program was established in 1998-1999 and reviewed by a practitioner advisory board in 2005. The central advancement of the mission was the development of specific mission components that established the basis for program assessment. Refinement of this mission assessment was developed in the September of 2007 in response to COPRA's accreditation review of August 2007. As a result of this refinement was the establishment of an embedded assessment process that offered the opportunity for the program to assess central features of its program mission in terms of program performance. The overall framework of the embedded assessment program is based on a model that is utilized through out the College of Business and Public Management.

Last year we reported on the preliminary progress toward implementation of the program assessment. This academic year (2009-2010) program assessment results were presented to the advisory program in October of 2009 and in April of 2010. Program assessment indicated weaknesses in quantitative reasoning in comparison to other performance indicators. This weakness corroborated with graduate exit interviews conducted in December of 2009. These findings were shared with the faculty and advisory board and formed the basis for articulating some of the requirements for a new faculty position for public administration graduate programs.

The advisory board also recommended that the program seek more "objective" measures of student assessment, perhaps using third party and/or practitioner reviews of student performance as a gauge of program performance. This suggestion was incorporated in the Spring 2010 student culminating research projects that utilized program alumni that are engaged in public service.

Student 2010 exit surveys also indicate interests in increasing curriculum strengths in the areas of economics and statistics. Improving in these areas will be the focus of the coming academic year (2010-2011).

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the program anticipates continuing its transition to the new NASPAA standards. The core faculty of the program initiated the effort toward assessment based on the new standards with the development of some initial areas of assessment in the core course offerings. It is anticipated that the development and design of these new assessments will be ready for full implementation for the 2011-2012 academic year.

### **Standard 3.0 Program Jurisdiction**

No Change

### **Standard 4.0 Curriculum**

As reported last year, program growth has allowed for program differentiation and specialty with the addition of a non-profit emphasis as well as a formal joint MPA/Law degree with the La Verne College of Law. These program specialties were reflected in student interests based on student discussions with faculty and through exit reviews. This coming academic year, the program expects to implement an economic development certificate that offers students the opportunity to explore practical applications with regard to local and economic development.

### **Standard 5.0 Faculty**

Because of program growth over the past two academic years, the University has recognized the need to fulfill the mission of the MPA program by providing two positions last year (one was a replacement position) and a new position this coming academic year. The MPA program maintains a strong full time/part time faculty ratio with students and Dean Helou reports that MPA program faculty are holding to university guidelines on course overloads. In terms of program management, Professor Meek receives a reduced load for managing the MPA program and directing graduate studies, Professor Beaumaster receives a reduced load for directing the DPA program and Professor Schildt receives a reduced load for serving as department chair.

The search committee protocol produced a diverse candidate pool in all three recent hires (2008-2009 and 2009-

2010). In each search, a diverse selection of candidates received invitations for both phone interviews and subsequent campus interviews. The result of search committee strategies and deliberations, the program was able to select two female and one minority faculty from the final candidates. In the 2009-2010 faculty search, minority candidates chosen turned down further consideration on two occasions despite selection for further consideration.

**Standard 6.0 Admission of Students**

No Change

**Standard 7.0 Student Services**

No Change

**Standard 8.0 Support Services and Facilities**

The overall program budget of the MPA program remained the same from the previous year. Differences in program reporting from this year compared to last are due to reporting on different items and are not comparable. We can continue to report a very active faculty in terms of conference attendance in a wide array of public administration seminars and conferences. This coming academic year (2010-2011) university predictions are quite solid for program and university growth. The program faculty finished its first year in a newly redesigned facility on campus.

**Standard 9.0 Off-Campus Programs and Distance Education**

The main campus is the only location where the program is offered. The La Verne MPA program is not offered on line.

**Supplement**

NONE