

## **The University of Saskatchewan School of Public Policy Background, June 2007**

### **What is the School of Public Policy?**

The School of Public Policy is an interdisciplinary entity designed to connect teaching, research and community outreach under one programming umbrella to focus on innovation policy. This transformative School and its resources will advance, profile and sustain research, graduate training and outreach in public policy.

### **Why create this School?**

Public policy involves understanding and influencing how various groups in a society react to the physical, economic and social environments in which they are situated. Good governance – the design of policies and institutions to ensure national prosperity and address social inequalities – is top of mind for both government and citizens. A renewed interest in public policy, most notably regarding the Western Canadian position in the social and economic fabric of Canada, makes the creation of this School both much needed and timely.

### **What will the School do?**

With the creation of the School of Public Policy, both the U of S and the University of Regina (U of R) now have schools of public policy. Under a June 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, the U of S and the U of R have agreed to create a single school of public policy from these two schools. With the goal of becoming one of leading policy schools in Canada, the joint Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy will assist in the renewal of the public sector across Canada and will advance the agenda of research, graduate program offerings, and outreach in the areas of public policy and public administration.

In terms of academic programming, the joint school aims to offer a number of common degrees such as a Master in Public Administration (MPA), a Master in Public Policy (MPP) and a PhD in Public Policy. At the University of Saskatchewan the school will also serve as home to the Master of International Trade (MIT), a distance delivered course-based program.

A key element of the joint school's success will be the linkages established, not only between university researchers, but between these researchers and policy practitioners in various government and non-government organizations.

### **Who's involved and how will the School operate?**

The School will function much the same as a college, and will be led by an executive director, who will report to the Provost and be a member of Dean's Council. An interdisciplinary balance will avoid heavy reliance on any one discipline and a critical mass of faculty will deliver programming. Care will be taken to ensure School activities do not jeopardize any current programs. Faculty appointments to the School can take four forms: standard appointments; primary joint appointments (time commitment of at least 70% to the School); secondary joint appointments (time commitment less than 70% to the School); and associate appointments. Initial resources for the School will be supplied by the University's Academic Priorities Fund.

### **When will the School be operational?**

With the approval of the School by U of S Council in May 2007, the executive sponsor, appointed by the Provost, will now choose an acting director, recommend founding faculty and oversee the selection of an executive director. The acting director, in turn, will develop programs, establish a budget, hire personnel and find space for the School. It is expected the School will offer programming in fall 2008. The School's executive sponsor, who will oversee the project, is Grant Isaac.

### **What impact will the School have?**

The School will enhance research capabilities in public policy, develop a sound interdisciplinary graduate studies program that attracts a high caliber of students, widen networks based on interdisciplinary links, develop a national and international reputation for the U of S and the U of R, create a societal awareness of the importance of innovation in society, and develop long term collaborative relationships.