



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

September 15, 2014

PRESIDENT JANET NAPOLITANO

Dear Janet,

I recommend approval of the proposal to establish the M.A. in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics (PPE) degree program at UC Irvine.

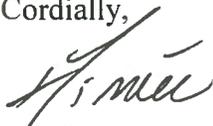
The proposal has undergone extensive review and is supported by both faculty and administrators at the campus. It is endorsed by the UC Irvine Graduate Council, and the system-level Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) approved this proposal. The CCGA approval letter is enclosed.

This M.A. degree program is proposed to be a “4+1” state-supported program; top UC Irvine undergraduates would apply to spend a fifth year to earn a master’s degree. The objective of this program is to train students to critically evaluate individual and collective decision-making and public policy. This program may be of interest to students who want additional education focused on ethics, logic, decision-making, and public policy before applying to law school. It would also be of interest to students seeking careers in such arenas as civil service, academia, the corporate world, and the nonprofit sector. The program would be highly selective and would only admit UC Irvine’s top students.

The M.A. program would be the first Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics degree program in the UC system and it may be the first PPE master’s degree in the nation. While the M.A. in Public Policy at UC Irvine focuses on government policy and planning, this M.A. program emphasizes the philosophical foundations of modern economic and political society.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Your signature below constitutes formal approval of the program.

Cordially,



Aimée Dorr, Provost  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Approved



Janet Napolitano

Date

9-24-14

cc: Academic Council Chair Gilly  
CCGA Chair Heckhausen  
Registrar Bennett  
Professor Barrett  
Professor Huttegger  
Director Greenspan  
Associate Director Giedt  
Analyst Banaria  
Analyst Harms



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)  
Donald Mastronarde, Chair  
[djmastronarde@berkeley.edu](mailto:djmastronarde@berkeley.edu)

ACADEMIC SENATE  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

July 19, 2014

**PROVOST AIMÉE DORR**

Dear Provost Dorr,

After in-person discussions at several meetings and after review of the final revised proposal in email discussion, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) has voted by email to approve the new Master of Arts degree in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics (PPE) to be offered jointly by the Departments of Logic and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy, Economics, and Political Science at UC Irvine. The vote was 9-0 in favor, with two abstentions (UCI members) and one member unable to vote because of summer absence.

The interdisciplinary MA in PPE is designed to train students in philosophical reasoning and individual and collective decision making within social and political contexts. It is aimed toward students interested in careers in law, government, academia and the non-profit sector. This will be a terminal 4+1 Master's program, recruiting each year 6-8 UCI undergraduates majoring in philosophy, political science or economics for an additional year of graduate-level study. On a case-by-case basis, exceptions will be considered for applications from majors in other disciplines and from transfer students who would have difficulty meeting the requirements for applying during the junior year. The degree will normally be a steppingstone to a professional degree in law or a career in government, business, or the non-profit sector, and the Dean of the Law School at UCI has provided a supporting letter stating that this additional qualification would be attractive for Law School admission.

The program is unique in the UC system. Combined PPE study has been offered at Oxford, Yale, Claremont McKenna College, Pomona College, and the University of Pennsylvania, but these are all undergraduate degree programs. Reviewers confirm that the proposed PPE MA remains fundamentally distinct from graduate programs that superficially resemble it, such as those in public policy, demography, and applied economics. Reviewers agree that the program is rigorous and innovative and that the faculty involved are excellent, and that UCI also has additional distinguished faculty who may be brought into the program as it develops.

Reviewers had minor concerns about admissions requirements, curriculum, lack of access to TAs for support for M.A. students (by School of Social Science policy), and the absence from initial participation of additional experts in other departments at UCI. Proposers found the comments to be constructive and modified their proposal to deal with these concerns to the degree possible in the current fiscal climate. In CCGA's judgment, these revisions are sufficient for approval.

In terms of resources this program draws on existing faculty and on many existing courses. The new course specific to the degree, the three-quarter PPE proseminar, will be offered by the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, which also has the capacity to provide the administrative support for the program.

CCGA's approval is the last step of the Academic Senate side of the systemwide review and approval process. We hope you will recommend approval to the President. For your information, I have included the final report of CCGA's lead reviewer as an enclosure. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Donald Mastrorarde, Ph.D.  
Chair, CCGA

cc: William Jacob, Academic Council Chair  
Mary Gilly, Academic Council Vice Chair 2012-13  
Daniel Hare, Academic Council Vice Chair 2013-14  
Hilary Baxter, Assistant Director of Academic Planning  
CCGA Members  
Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director  
Todd Giedt, Academic Senate Associate Director

Enclosure (1)