

**CSU FULLERTON CENTERS AND INSTITUTES  
SELF-STUDY & PROGRAM REVIEW**

for

**The Center for Public Policy**

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Established  
October 1999

Review Date  
15 March 2018

Date of Previous Review  
2 July 2012

## **2. Mission and Goals**

### **Mission**

The Mission of the Center for Public Policy is to provide informed and unbiased expertise in exploring problems and solutions for public policy issues in Orange County and surrounding areas

### **Goals**

The Goals of the Center for Public Policy (CPP) are to:

1. Facilitate collaboration between community leaders, practitioners, agencies, and researchers
2. Identify pragmatic policy solutions (“best practices”) to societal issues
3. Provide experiential learning opportunities for students interested in public policy in Orange County and the surrounding areas.

The mission of the CPP is in alignment with and contributes to the success of both the University and HSS mission and goals. Specifically, the CPP contributes to goal 1 of the University strategic plan by engaging community partnerships that benefit our students and provide them with learning experiences in their communities. We also contribute to goal 4 of the University strategic plan by increasing philanthropic giving, contract revenue for the university, and enhancing external relationships with community stakeholders.

The Center also contributes to the meeting the goals of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Specifically, the center engages in scholarly and creative activities that advance disciplinary knowledge, provides opportunities for our faculty to convey professional and disciplinary knowledge in the region and to professional communities, helps develop awareness and skills in our students so that they can respond to critical challenges, promotes projects that strengthen collaboration between the college and community leaders, helps faculty integrate community based experience into a classroom setting, and helps serve our community by providing academic expertise both on and off campus.

### **3. Activities**

At present, the Center for Public Policy conducts two major types of activities.

1. UniverCity: The CPP is the home of the UniverCity project, which is a member of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities network (EPIC-N <http://www.epicn.org/>). In the UniverCity project, communities (local governments in our case) partner with universities to host classes where as a normal part of the curriculum, the students attempt to solve a community identified project. Faculty expertise is applied to the problem, but the students use the course material to solve a community problem and provide a report to the community partner. This engages the students in their communities and builds multiple bridges between the university and the community and the students the community. The first community partner for the UniverCity project was the City of Anaheim during the Fall 2016 semester. Anaheim contracted with the CPP to work

on three distinct community problems; a parks assessment (two classes), a water use analysis, and an analysis of the City's public relations efforts. Students involved in these projects expressed an increased level of commitment to their community and appreciated the application of the course material to a real world problem in their community. The City used these analyses to work on previously undocumented problems (<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/03/24/anaheim-will-spend-830000-to-improve-west-side-parks-where-bathrooms-were-called-creepy/>)

2. Faculty Consulting and Expertise: Affiliated faculty from the CPP use their faculty expertise to help solve community problems. The center fills a unique gap in how the University processes grants and contracts. Most often our community partners do not post public RFPs or grants, but rather make contact with individual faculty who have the expertise they need and develop consulting contracts for the CPP to execute. ASC supervises these contracts through their review processes. Rather than have the faculty take on these small consulting opportunities as private contractors, the CPP provides a mechanism to funnel the contracts through the university.

Our faculty have served as consultants and expert witnesses in a wide range of areas including as:

- a. Consultants and expert witnesses for the cities of Anaheim and Corona on local government elections and city charters
- b. Consultants on body worn cameras for the Santa Monica Police Department
- c. Consultants for the Police Foundation on Educational issues
- d. Subject matter experts on policing for LA Public Safety Collaborative and the Brown Institute at Cal State LA
- e. Speaker for the North Orange County Chamber of Commerce on regional educational needs
- f. Television appearance on Al-Jazeera America about educational non-profits

In addition to these two main activities, the center co-sponsors and supports a variety of campus events such as the sustainable cities initiative, and the homelessness symposium.

These activities contributed to helping achieve the CPP's goals by increasing collaboration between our faculty and the community to help them identify pragmatic policy solutions ("best practices") to societal issues. Our reputation is growing in the community as a source of expertise in the region. The UniverCity project has also provided experiential learning opportunities for students in Orange County. We are helping students develop and use their own expertise to engage in their own communities.

All of these activities also help advance the HSS and University mission and goals to engage students in meaningful learning opportunities, to convey faculty expertise to members of the community, increase charitable giving and contracting opportunities, raise the profile of the University in the community.

#### **4. Organizational Structure and Governance**

The Center for Public Policy is supervised by the Chair of the Division of Politics, Administration, and Justice (PAJ) in HSS. The Director of the CPP is chosen in consultation with the Division Chair and the affiliated faculty. The Director of the CPP has always been a full-time member of the faculty, but there are no rules limiting who can serve. The Director serves at the discretion of the Division Chair as part of their workload assignment.

The Director performs all of the essential functions of the CPP, including all contract development and approval with ASC. They perform all of the staff and reporting duties that are not handled by ASC, HSS, or the Division staff. The Director also has signatory power over the CPP ASC and foundation accounts.

At present there is no formal advisory committee or external advisory board. Affiliated faculty in the CPP serve as an internal advisory board when needed. Discussions with staff in the Office of Government Relations at CSUF lead the Director of the Center in 2013 to identify and contact two prominent individuals in the community to determine if they would be willing to serve as members of an external advisory board. Preliminary meetings with these individuals lead to their willingness to serve. With the change of directors and the scope of work that the CPP currently performs, progress on developing an advisory board ceased. Development of an external advisory board will be a priority as the CPP continues to expand the scope of its services and level of community engagement.

## 5. Resources and Sustainability

The Center for Public Policy and affiliated faculty have generated \$61,500 in contracts and donations since 2016.

Year	Contract	Amount
2016-17	Santa Monica PD Pilot BWC Study	\$5,000
2016-17	National Police Survey (SSRC <sup>1</sup> was PI)	\$30,000
2016-17 <sup>2</sup>	UniverCity (Anaheim)	\$6,500
2017-18	Los Angeles Public Safety Collaborative	\$20,000

The CPP is designed to operate as a self-sufficient operation within the Division of PAJ. The Director of the center receives a 3 FTEF (one class equivalent) workload assignment per semester if they are assigned 12 FTEF (four classes) in the classroom. If they have a workload assigned time of 9 FTEF (three classes) in the classroom, the director receives zero assigned time for their work. This ensures that the Division can maintain their student enrollment targets and have reasonable equity in faculty workload.

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<sup>1</sup> Social Science Research Center at CSUF was the Principal Investigator on this contract because of the complexity and needs of the study.

<sup>2</sup> CPP was granted approval for an ASC account because of the difficulties with billing the city for services provided. Prior to the ASC account, funds would either be run through HSS, OGC, another Center, or simply be taken as donations to the CPP foundation account. All of these were significant impediments to obtaining and administering contracts.

The center currently has 15 affiliated faculty members. None of the affiliated faculty members has a recurring cost or time base. Faculty serve as special consultants to projects and are only paid for their work after a contract has been secured, funding has been deposited in a CPP controlled account, and the work is completed. Care is given to ensure that faculty consultant work does not exceed the limits imposed by the collective bargaining agreement.

The center itself occupies no campus space and incurs no costs associated with space. The Chair of the Division of PAJ selects the Director of CPP and the Director conducts the functions of the center in their own faculty office. The Division of PAJ provides office support such as copies and basic staff functions as needed (extremely rare).

The Center has control of one foundation account and one ASC account. The Foundation account was established as a way to receive donations that support outreach and other functions as needed. CPP established an ASC account in order to be able to bill clients, manage faculty stipends, and pay for other project related expenses. ASC charges a project-based fee on all contracts, which covers all of the billing and administrative costs for each project.

The Center for Public Policy has a high degree of sustainability and more than adequate financial reserves to continue to grow well into the future. The financial reserves in the foundation and ASC accounts are more than enough to cover the zero operating costs of the center. Because all expenditures are project based, if no projects are acquired, no expenditures are made. The Division of PAJ has a long-term commitment and ability to fund the 3 FTEF workload assignment for the director as part of normal Division workload assignments.

## **6. Highlights and Accomplishments**

The UniverCity project received significant praise in the media and among project participants. The contracts for our affiliated faculty have helped establish them as experts in the field and have provided a rich amount of experience that they can bring into the classroom as examples. These have also allowed them to increase their viability as candidates for larger and more significant grants in the future. Students have also participated in the other research projects and gained practical experience working in their respective fields.

## **7. Planning and Strategic Outlook**

The CPP will continue to develop and expand as our reputation in the community spreads. Our affiliated faculty continue to pursue consulting and other projects in order to strengthen the bridges between our faculty expertise and community needs. Because the UniverCity project has received a significant amount of support and praise in the community, the CPP will work to develop and expand this model over the next few years to allow for additional partnerships and more students to engage in meaningful learning experiences. Currently there is no strategic planning process, but future plans include establishing a more routine schedule of meetings for affiliated faculty, the establishment of an internal and external oversight board, and increasing the administrative and outreach capabilities of the center.