

## Department of Public Policy & Administration

### Fall 2018 Student Meeting

#### Student Feedback

- Consider doing away with the Comprehensive Exam (particularly for Master's level students) and replace with a Capstone Project.
- More community-based projects to allow for real-world simulation of concepts like Program Management.
- Allow for more meetings and mentor/mentee relationships between new students and veteran students.
- Department needs a "resource center" on site – a study area, central location for documents and study tips, etc.; something tangible here at the Downtown Campus versus on the Main Campus, especially a common area that can hold meetings and have a person on-call.

**\*\* Dr. Gilleylen's response:** There are no funds for a full-time staffed resource center at this time. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with faculty office hours, and consider them as a resource.

- Pair doctoral students together (as done in the Psychology PhD program) to better facilitate learning, cooperation, and mentoring.
- Strengthen the orientation process for first-year students – this could include a tour of the building, and tips on technology use.
- As graduate students, much of the cooperative learning needs to be student-led. Faculty should be available to help facilitate, but the responsibility for forming study groups, learning teams, tutoring, etc. should belong to the students.
- Remind students often that their fellow cohort members should also be considered a resource.
- Encourage students to connect and collaborate outside of their respective cohort groups.
- Strengthen the PPAD Student Association to help better accomplish some of the previously stated goals. Agreement that the orientation process should be enhanced.

**\*\* Dr. Billingsley's response:** Perhaps the orientation should be lengthened to more than one day to be more inclusive.

- Orientation could also be a potential opportunity to bring in veteran students to address new students' concerns.
- Allow seasoned Master's students and PhD students to mentor new Master's students.

- Provide more study tips for students coming from programs outside Public Policy & Administration, to address the different learning styles they may have (example: students from computer science or math backgrounds)
- (Student question) What is the purpose of the Qualifying Exam?

**\*\* Dr. Gilleylen's response:** The goal of administering the Qualifying Exam is to improve program outcomes (including passage of the Comprehensive Exam), and to identify deficits in learning and address them.