

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

EXH	MOTION	<i>McGowan</i>
		<i>Brandon</i>
		APPROVED BY THE REGENTS
		DEC 15 2005

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: A new degree program for the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

ACTION REQUEST: Approval of a new undergraduate degree program, "Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy" to be offered by the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2007

The Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy requests approval to establish an undergraduate degree program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy. This proposal is the result of extensive discussions among the faculty and the executive committee members at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, with the Provost and Associate Provost, as well as the Dean of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. This program offers an opportunity to expand the undergraduate offerings at the University of Michigan into a new area and to increase professional school involvement in the undergraduate curriculum.

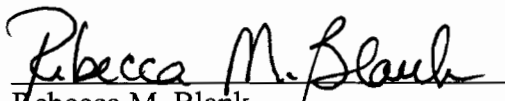
The Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy will be a liberal arts program that emphasizes multi-disciplinary training in the social sciences. Students will apply to the program during their sophomore year and will be admitted to the Ford School for their final two years. The BA in Public Policy builds on two traditional strengths at the University of Michigan—our strong, interdisciplinary social sciences and the longstanding interests of Michigan undergraduates in public affairs. The proposed degree will combine core coursework in economics and political science with integrative policy seminars that provide opportunities for students to work together in teams to apply their skills in the analysis of contemporary policy problems. This experience, grounded in the liberal arts, will provide an excellent foundation for careers and later graduate training in a broad range of professions. The first students will begin the program in fall semester 2007.

The strong liberal arts focus of the program reflects our view of this BA as a "pre-professional school" degree. The scale of the program will allow students to develop a sense of community among themselves and to work closely with faculty. At the same time, the majority of new courses in this degree program will be open to other students and will enrich the offerings available to Literature, Science, and the Arts majors. In addition to the program's curriculum, we envision an expansive set of co-curricular activities that will provide students with opportunities to engage in debate and discussion on key public issues and to engage with elected officials and policy makers at the local, national and international level. Students will be able to participate in the new Michigan in Washington program as well.

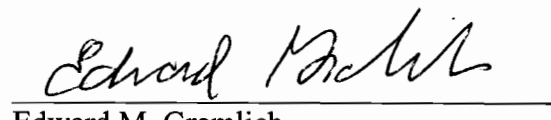
An undergraduate program in public policy will reinforce the University's commitment to the missions of teaching, research, and service related to public affairs. The Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy will nurture the interests of students in public affairs and will help to shape their long-term career choices. Michigan often leads the nation in the number of its graduates who go on to pursue degrees in law, business, public health, and the other professions. The Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy will be particularly attractive to students with these career interests, since it will prepare them to understand the policy world that shapes the environments of the professions. We request that the Regents approve the offering of the new degree program.

RECOMMENDED BY:

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:



Rebecca M. Blank
Dean, Gerald R. Ford School of
Public Policy



Edward M. Gramlich,
Interim Provost, and Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs

December 2005