DATE: October 5, 2014

TO: Viviana Vladutescu, Chair

College Council Curriculum Committee

FROM: Curriculum Subcommittee

Mark Hellermann (Chair), Masato Nakamura and Tasha Rhodes

RE: Final Report for Proposal 13-03: GOV 2402 US Public Policy

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**COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER:** GOV 2402 US Public Policy

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3credits;3 class hours

**PREREQUISITES:** GOV 1101 American Government or GOV 1102 State and Local Government

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to public policymaking in America. This course provides students

with a critical view of how public policy is formulated in the United States through a topical examination of important public policy issues. The course is divided into three sections: 1) theoretical frameworks of public policy, 2) understanding the policy-making process, and 3) current issues in American public policy.

**RATIONALE:**

While students are generally introduced to the basic features of American government through their education in civics, this education is generally centered on the structure of the American government and the theoretical aspects of federalism and the separation of powers. However, less time is devoted to studying the actions of government and the impact of these actions on society.

This course specifically focuses on how, through forming and implementing public policy, our government affects our society. This course will enable students to develop a more complete understanding of the role and impact of American government which will be valuable for their professional careers as well as for their role as public citizens.

**Strengths**

The committee feels that the course design, along with the readings, and assignments will provide a stimulating and rigorous course that is based in real world issues. It will as the rationale states, provide students with an understanding of the ‘role and impact of US public policy’. GOV 2402 has the potential to become an interdisciplinary course and the proposers intend to pursue that goal.

**Weaknesses**

None

**Issues and Concerns Discussed**

Overall, the issues discussed by the subcommittee were related to inconsistencies within the course proposal document rather than to the substance of the course itself. Such issues included:

* The length of the rationale and description
* Streamlining the number of course objectives
* Matching grading system to assessment methods

The suggestions made were taken into consideration in the modified course proposal document.

The subcommittee recognizes this as a valuable and important course. The subcommittee agrees with the proposers that in the future this could work as an interdisciplinary course and also be to part of the pathways flexible core.

**Subcommittee activities**

The subcommittee met with proposers Marco Castillo and Peter Parides. Suggestions for small modifications were made. A revised course proposal was provided.

The subcommittee and proposers also met with Provost Bonne August, Associate Provost Pamela Brown, Dean Botchway, and Kim Cardascia. Changes in the number of learning objectives and assessments were suggested and these were implemented in the final version of the proposal.