

September 5, 2023

Dear Dean Dunaway and Dr. Lupe Davidson:

In accordance with the provisions of [Board of Governors Rule 2.2](#), the Program Review Appeal Hearing for the Department of Public Administration was held on September 1, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

The Appeal was of the following Preliminary Recommendation(s):

- MLS Legal Studies: Discontinuance
- MPA Public Administration: Discontinuance

The members of the Program Review Appeal Committee for this unit were:

- Paul Kreider, Vice Provost
- Lou Slimak, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment
- Richard Thomas, Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs
- Valerie Lastinger, Associate Dean, Eberly College
- Chad Mezera, Assistant Dean, Reed College
- Sean Bulger, Associate Dean, College of Applied Human Sciences
- Scott Wayne, Faculty Senate representative

The following individuals participated in the presentation of the Appeal for the unit: Lupe Davidson, Gregory Dunaway, and Margaret Stout (presenting an alternative perspective). These individuals and/or this unit submitted additional documentation and information in advance of the Hearing.

### ***Result of the Program Review Appeal***

Taking the information presented into consideration, the Committee has made the following determinations:

- Deny the appeal of discontinuance of the MLS Legal Studies by a vote of 6 to 1.
- Deny the appeal of discontinuance of the MPA Public Administration by a vote of 7 to 0.
- Uphold the original recommendation to reduce the number of faculty positions in the unit from the current number to 0.

The key components that led to the Committee's determination(s) include the following:

- Declining enrollment;
- Decrease in student credit hour production;
- FTE is unaligned with decreases in enrollment and student credit hour production;
- Low student-to-faculty ratio;
- No dedicated faculty leadership for the MLS Legal Studies; and

- Unit presented plan to develop the MPA Public Administration as an online degree; online market is dominated by large, national online institutions.

### ***Review by the WVU Board of Governors***

As a result of the [Board of Governors Rule 2.2](#), the Program Review Process and Appeal Hearing, the following Provost's Office Final Recommendation(s) will be placed on the Public Agenda for the September 15, 2023, Board of Governors meeting for a vote by the Board.

- MLS Legal Studies: Discontinuance
- MPA Public Administration: Discontinuance

### ***Reduction of Faculty Positions***

Through this process and as a result of the Appeal decision(s), the Provost's Office has determined that the number of faculty positions in the unit should be reduced from its current number to 0.

If this recommendation is approved by the Board of Governors, the Provost's Office, in consultation with the dean's office and the chair (where applicable), will develop the Reduction in Force Plan for this unit. That process will include discussion of which faculty positions may be needed for one or two years beyond May 9, 2024, for teach-out programming. Faculty will learn on or around October 16, 2023, whether their positions will be eliminated as of May 9, 2024, or if they will be asked to stay on for a longer period of time to complete teach-out programming.

### ***Providing Comments to WVU Board of Governors***

Individuals have two opportunities to provide comments to the Board of Governors in advance of the September 15 vote. First, they can provide a written comment about a Provost's Office Final Recommendation or about WVU Transformation generally by completing this [comment form](#). To ensure that the Board members have appropriate time to review any comments received, we ask that they please submit comments at least two days in advance of September 14.

Second, if they wish to sign up to speak at a Board meeting, they may do so by completing [this form](#). If possible, individuals should try to submit their request to speak at least two days in advance of September 14. However, they will still be able to sign up in-person in advance of the start of the September 14 meeting. Depending on the number of individuals that sign up to speak, the Board may limit the number of speakers who may address a particular topic. The time that each speaker can speak will also be limited based upon the number of speakers.

### ***Notifying Your Faculty and Staff***

You must notify the faculty and appropriate staff within this unit of the Provost Office's Final Recommendations by forwarding this email and CCing Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment Lou Slimak ([Louis.slimak@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Louis.slimak@mail.wvu.edu)). This notification should occur **immediately after receiving this letter**.

### ***Additional Resources***

The Provost's Office is currently working toward securing services with a career outplacement organization to assist faculty and staff who are affected by the current non-renewal or reduction in force processes. Specific details about this service and how to participate will be forthcoming.

Additionally, the WVU Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP) is a free, confidential resource for all active and retired faculty, staff and their dependents (i.e., spouse or child). It is a safe place where employees can talk about any struggles or concerns they are facing and determine the best way to address them. To utilize FSAP, call their office at [304-293-5590](tel:304-293-5590) or email [fsap@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:fsap@hsc.wvu.edu) to schedule a free appointment with a counselor.

Finally, information on the process and timeline is available at:  
<https://transformation.wvu.edu/resources>.

Sincerely,

WVU Office of the Provost