

30 October 2015

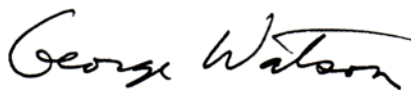
As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), I wish to express my support for the School of Public Policy and Administration's (SPPA) Disaster Science and Management (DISA) Program (MS and PhD) to receive Permanent Status.

CAS values excellence in teaching and research, diversity, and community engagement as it pursues strategic goals of developing outstanding students and faculty. In all of our graduate programs we seek to advanced skills related to critical thinking, open inquiry, and experiential learning, and promoting scholarly and service oriented relationships with local, national, and global communities. The SPPA DISA degree programs support these values and strategic goals through its activities related to the study of public sector emergency management; public policy on the environment and natural/manmade disaster planning; data collection and analysis; and issues of environmental justice for domestic and global communities.

Through integrated teaching, scholarship, and community/public service, the work of SPPA faculty and graduate students impacts public, private, and non-profit policies in ways which improve social and political performance. Also, the hands on opportunities provided to students through both the programs and the Disaster Research Center (DRC) provide unique opportunities to understand diverse perspectives on governance, emergency planning and response, and the policy making process.

SPPA has been resourceful and innovative in pursuing engagement with international academic, federal, state, and local public sector entities. In addition, it is anticipated that the DISA degree programs will improve the attractiveness of SPPAs other professional degree offerings like the online Masters of Public Administration. The college will work with SPPA to ensure the DISA Programs are successful in pursuing mutually shared goals and values, and we hope that the Faculty Senate will agree that the program deserves permanent status.

Sincerely,



George H. Watson  
Dean