6 October 2017

TO: John Zumbrunnen, Professor and Chair, Political Science

FROM: John Karl Scholz, Dean

RE: Request to Suspend Admissions: International Politics and Practice Capstone Certificate

CC: Cal Bergman, Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs, L&S
Greg Downey, Associate Dean for Social Science, L&S
Katy Duren, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Division of Continuing Studies
Marty Gustafson, Assistant Dean, Graduate School
Elaine Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, L&S
Sarah Kuba, Academic Planner, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
Jocelyn Milner, Vice Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
James Montgomery, Associate Dean for Fiscal Initiatives, L&S
Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Associate Dean for Academic Administration

On October 3, 2017, the L&S Academic Planning Council considered the attached request to suspend admission to the International Politics and Practice Capstone Certificate. Council members greatly appreciated your efforts to steward this program wisely, and readily agreed that best service to students would be found in suspending admissions to the program while you and your colleagues reconsider the form and format of the program.

We understand that there may be as many as 11 students enrolled in the program, and that the department will continue to offer courses to help these students complete it. Please be in touch with Associate Deans Greg Downey and Elaine Klein if you need advice or assistance in proceeding with “teaching out” this iteration of the program. They will also be happy to talk with you about how the program might be reformulated.

The L&S APC approved this request unanimously, and agreed that it would be best to have an update on your progress by the end of April 2018.
September 28, 2017

Dean John Karl Scholz
College of Letters and Science
105 South Hall, 1055 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dean Scholz:

I write to request a temporary suspension of admissions for the International Politics and Practice Capstone Certificate (IPPCC). I have consulted with all relevant Political Science faculty members, and the Political Science executive committee unanimously endorsed the request on September 27.

Though housed administratively in Political Science, the IPPCC program was originally conceived as a cross-department certificate. After the departure of key faculty from other units, Political Science faculty members now teach all relevant courses. We have managed this workload by offering the necessary graduate level coursework in conjunction with similar undergraduate classes during summer sessions, though this situation is not ideal. Meanwhile, though the program was originally designed to appeal especially to active duty military officers, the forecast enrollment has not materialized consistently. The past admissions cycle yielded only two new students. During summer 2017, a total of nine students enrolled in three IPPCC courses. There are, then, a total of 11 students currently enrolled in the certificate program.

In this context, we wish to suspend admissions effective immediately. We will then convene a working group to consider revisions to the IPPCC program design that might yield greater numbers of students. Possibilities include offering IPPCC courses regularly during the academic year and expanding the scope of the certificate to include other relevant courses in International Relations and Comparative Politics. Although the program will not accept new students we will ensure that the students currently enrolled in the program have an opportunity to complete their certificate, using the summer ‘meets with’ arrangement described above. Upon approval of this request, we will change the IPPCC website to indicate that admissions have been paused, and
contact current students to inform them that despite the suspension of admissions, they will have the opportunity to complete the program and be awarded the certificate. We hope to reach a decision on the program’s future by the end of the current academic year.

Sincerely,

John Zumbrunnen
Professor and Chair of Political Science