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Article I: Name and Mission

The name of the unit shall be the “School of Public Policy” of the University of Maryland at College Park, hereinafter referred to as the “School.”

The School exists to improve the design and implementation of public policies by:

a. Attracting highly capable people to careers in public service within the public, non-profit, and private sectors;

b. Providing current and future participants in the policymaking process with the knowledge and skills to analyze and implement public policies through use of multi-disciplinary tools, scholarly findings, and the insights of the best practitioners; and

c. Conducting and disseminating broadly to policymakers, other policy analysts, and
interested citizens, useful analyses of current public policy issues and processes.

d. Creating knowledge relevant to important policy problems, and ensuring that this knowledge has impact.

Article II: Authorization and Purpose

This plan of organization is formulated pursuant to Article II of the Plan of Organization for the University of Maryland at College Park as approved by the Senate on April 1, 1993. It is deemed to be in compliance with all applicable University and Campus policies and regulations. However, should there be discrepancies between these and the provisions of this plan, University and Campus statutes shall take precedence.

The purpose of this plan is to establish a framework for shared governance of the School so as to provide for the orderly and effective discharge of the School’s mission. The plan advances the School’s mission within its strong and enduring commitment to shared governance, which ensures that all members of the School community join in shaping the School and its future.

Article III: Academic Programs

A. Composition

1. The School has the following degree programs:
   a. Master’s of Public Policy (MPP)
   b. Master’s of Public Management (MPM)
   c. Executive Master’s of Public Management (EMPM)
   d. Master’s of Professional Studies – Public Administration (MPPA)
   e. Dual MPP/MBA (with the Smith School of Business)
   f. Dual MPP/JD (with the University of Maryland School of Law)
   g. Dual MPP/CONS (with the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences)
   h. Master’s of Engineering and Public Policy (MEPP)
   i. Ph.D. in Policy Studies

2. The following research and service sub-units are established within the School and are subject to the School’s governance, within university procedures:
B. Plan of Organization

Each sub-unit shall develop and adopt a Plan of Organization. Upon approval by Faculty, these plans shall become an integral part of the Plan of Organization of the School.

C. Administration

Each sub-unit shall be headed by a faculty member, who serves as director and who is appointed according to University and campus policies. Directors shall report to the Dean or the Dean’s representative.

Article IV: Assembly

A. Composition

The Assembly of the School, herein referred to as the “Assembly,” shall include faculty, staff, and students.

B. Membership

All members of the Faculty and of the Staff, both exempt and nonexempt, shall be members of the Assembly. The student body shall be represented by the elected representatives of the Policy Student Government Association (see Article VI(b)). A member of the Faculty or of the Staff shall be elected during the spring semester each year to chair the Assembly for the following academic year.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

The Assembly shall advise the Dean, Directors, and Faculty on matters pertaining to the School’s governance and mission, which can be brought before it by any member or
D. Meetings

The Assembly shall meet at least twice a year, once during the fall and once during the spring semesters. Special meetings of the Assembly may be called at any time by any member, provided the call is endorsed in writing by two-thirds of the membership. A written agenda shall be distributed to the membership at least one week prior to any meeting. Any proposals that may require a vote shall be presented in writing and shall be submitted to the membership in advance, together with the agenda. Meetings of the Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. No vote shall be taken in the absence of a quorum.

E. Functions

The School Assembly supports the School’s strategy of shared governance and provides the Faculty, Staff, and students with the opportunity to exercise their responsibilities to carry out the mission of the School; promote excellence; and achieve the highest standards of research, education, and impact.

The functions of the School Assembly shall include:

a. A regular opportunity for the Faculty, Staff, and students to collectively express their viewpoints and concerns.

b. A regular opportunity for promoting effective communication among all the Faculty, Staff, and students, within the School and around the University.

c. Promotion of collaborative activities that advance the mission of the School.

d. To encourage the effective pursuit of policies that advance the School.

Article V: Faculty

A. Membership

For the purposes of this plan, the term Faculty shall designate those persons who hold at least a 50 percent appointment in one of the University’s faculty categories:
• Adjunct Assistant, Associate, and (full) Professors
• Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor
• College Park Professor
• Emeriti Faculty
• Lecturer and Senior Lecturer
• Research Faculty
• Professor of the Practice
• Clinical Assistant Professor, Clinical Associate Professor, and Clinical Professor

B. Senate Representation

Upon being notified of a vacancy in Senate representation of the School, the Dean shall solicit nominations from the Faculty by means of a written memorandum. Faculty must submit nominations in writing to the Dean no later than fifteen days from the date of the Dean’s memorandum. Faculty shall be responsible to ascertain from any nominees, prior to submitting their names, whether they are willing to serve if elected. Elections shall take place during the next regularly scheduled faculty meeting. The representative shall be elected by a simple majority; in the event of a tie, a runoff election among the tied candidates shall be held, using the same procedure as the original vote.

C. Affiliate members

1. Members of the University of Maryland College Park faculty who do not otherwise have an appointment in the School but are engaged with the School may be given affiliate status with the School, during the term of their engagement, up to three years, with a title appropriate to the nature of their association with the School.

2. Individuals from outside the university who are connected with the work of the School and with its research centers may be given an appointment for up to a year in the School, of either nonresident fellow or nonresident senior fellow, depending on their level of professional accomplishment.

3. Proposals for affiliate, nonresident fellow, or nonresident senior fellow status should be made in writing to the Dean. The proposal should include a description of the nature of the association and a copy of the curriculum vitae of the individual.

4. The Dean will submit proposals for affiliate status to the faculty for discussion and approval.
5. All appointments as affiliate, nonresident fellow, and nonresident senior fellow are renewable, for a period of up to the term of the original appointment.

Article VI: Students

A. Membership

The Students of the School shall include all students who are enrolled in the School’s academic programs.

B. Governance

The Policy Student Government Association (PSGA) of the School shall consist of up to eight elected representatives and the president of any other student organizations of the School duly recognized by the PSGA and the Dean. The elected representatives shall consist of six representatives, elected by the Students of the School in April to one-year terms from among all students enrolled at that time, and two representatives elected in October to six-month terms from students who matriculated into their programs since the previous spring semester. All representatives, whether elected or ex officio, shall have full voting rights. The PSGA shall elect a president and vice president from among its representatives.

C. Meetings

The PSGA shall meet at least twice during the academic year, once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester.

D. Purpose

The PSGA shall organize social activities and represent the interests of the Students to the Faculty, Staff, and Administration of the School. To accomplish this purpose, the PSGA shall foster community among the Students, organize activities and organizations of interest to the students, and represent the interests of Students with the Dean, the Faculty, and the Staff. In pursuit of this purpose, the PSGA or its officers shall:

a. Organize periodic social gatherings and community service projects.
b. Help establish and support other student organizations focused on specific needs and interests.

c. Meet at least once a semester with the Dean to discuss topics of interest to Students.

d. Organize at least once a semester an opportunity for all Students to ask questions and raise concerns with the Dean.

**Article VII: Staff**

A. **Membership**

The Staff shall include all employees of the School other than those with primarily faculty or student appointments.

**Article VIII: Administration**

A. **The Dean**

1. **Appointment and Terms**

   The Dean is the chief executive officer of the School. The Dean shall be appointed and reviewed in accordance with University and Campus policy.

2. **Duties and Responsibilities**

   The Dean shall be responsible for:

   a. Exercising his/her authority consistently with the powers and responsibilities delegated to him/her by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

   b. Formulating and presenting policies to the Faculty for its consideration. This shall not be interpreted to abridge the right of any faculty member or of the Faculty as a whole to present any matter to the Faculty.
c. Administering the educational policy and programs of the School.

d. In consultation with the Faculty Committee and the Directors, preparing and managing a budget for funds within the School, as well as preparing and implementing the School’s Strategic Plan.

e. In consultation with individual faculty members, assigning teaching duties to those members. In so doing, the Dean shall provide for teaching assignments, as required by the program, consistent with the expertise and scholarly focus of each faculty member and with the Campus workload policy as approved by the Senate.

f. In consultation with the appropriate faculty members and Committees, recommending the appointment, reappointment, non-reappointment, or promotion of faculty and staff. The Dean shall be responsible for informing the School’s APT Committee in a timely fashion of all upcoming candidacies for appointment, promotion, and tenure.

g. Serving as the conduit of communication for all official business of the School with the Campus administration, the Faculty, the Staff, students, alumni/ae, and the public. In particular, the Dean shall be responsible for informing the Faculty in writing of the yearly proposed and approved budgets of the School and of the detailed allocation of budgetary resources.

h. Consulting with the Faculty Committee (see Article IX) on all matters relevant to the Committee’s duties and responsibilities and reporting to the Faculty Committee as to the action on any of its recommendations or the recommendations from other committees.

i. Representing the School to the Campus and University communities, professional and scholarly organizations, and the public at large.

j. Maintaining appropriate supervision of the use of buildings, equipment, and spaces assigned to the School.

k. At his or her discretion, appointing any standing or ad-hoc administrative committees as may be necessary. Such appointments shall be made in writing and shall specify the duties, chair, size, and composition of each.

l. Delegating to each Director any or all the above responsibilities regarding such matters that properly pertain to the direction, administration, and management of his/her respective Programs, provided such matters do not
fall within the purview of other School Programs.

B. Associate and Assistant Deans

1. Appointment and Terms

The Associate and Assistant Deans shall be appointed by the Dean for fixed terms in accordance with applicable University and Campus Policy.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

One Associate Dean will be designated the School’s Executive Dean and will report to the Dean and be responsible for all tasks delegated to him/her by the Dean. The other Associate and Assistant Deans will report to the Dean, and will be responsible for all tasks delegated by the Dean.

C. Program Directors

1. Appointment and Terms

The Program Directors shall be appointed by the Dean to fixed terms in accordance with applicable University and Campus Policy.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The Program Directors report to the Dean and shall be responsible for all tasks delegated to them by the Dean.

Article IX: Administrative Committees

Without prejudice to the Dean’s authority in regard to the constitution of committees as specified in Article VIII.A.2.k, the following shall be standing administrative faculty committees of the School.

A. Faculty Committee

1. Membership and Terms
The Faculty Committee shall consist of all Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, Professors, Professors of the Practice, Clinical Professors of all ranks, and such other members of the Faculty, as defined in Article V.A., with academic year appointments of 50 percent or more, which the Dean, with the concurrence of the Faculty Committee, deems to be sufficiently knowledgeable about the School to warrant appointment to the Faculty Committee. The Dean or the Dean’s representative shall serve as Chair.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The Faculty Committee shall be responsible for formulating and recommending educational policy. It shall recommend students for the award of degrees. It shall consider and deliberate questions of School governance, advise the Dean and/or Directors on any matters pertaining to the School mission, and determine any such matters as do not affect relations with units outside the School or properly come under the supervision of larger administrative units.

In particular, the Faculty Committee shall be responsible for:

a. Consulting with the Dean at least once a semester during the academic year on matters of interest and concern to the School, including budget decisions and facility planning.

b. Serving as the conduit of information between the Dean and the Faculty.

c. Assisting the Dean in the preparation and implementation of the School’s Strategic Plan.

d. Hearing Faculty or Staff grievances, which have not been otherwise resolved through the School’s administrative processes, and making recommendations to the Dean and Directors for the fair resolution of such grievances. In such cases, there shall be a subcommittee of the Faculty Committee, appointed by the dean, and the subcommittee shall elect its own chair.

e. Serving as a Committee on Committees to nominate slates of candidates from which the Dean or administrators above the School level may appoint members for all School committees or representatives to participate in the search, nomination, and review of administrators and units at any Campus and University level.
f. Electing members of the Faculty Merit and Salary Review Committee, to perform the functions described in Article IX.D.

B. Programs, Curricula & Course Committee (PCC or Curriculum Committee)

1. Membership

The PCC shall consist of at least five faculty members appointed by the Dean in consultation with the Faculty Committee. The Dean shall designate a Chair from among the Committee’s membership.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The PCC shall be responsible for:

a. Advising the dean on the long-range educational goals and policies of the School.

b. Periodically reviewing the educational programs and curricula and recommending measures to the Dean, Directors, and Faculty to ensure the most effective use of resources and an appropriate level of coordination among the various programs and areas.

c. Recommending to the Dean, Directors, and Faculty any changes in courses and curricula as may be submitted by the Faculty, faculty committees, or the Policy Student Government Association.

C. Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee (APT)

1. Membership

a. The membership of the APT committee generally consists of all tenured and tenure-track faculty in the School

b. When considering an individual for appointment to the rank of Associate
Professor or Professor, the APT committee shall consist of only those members of
the larger APT committee who hold the rank under consideration, or higher.

c. The Committee shall elect an APT chair, chosen from among the Committee’s
membership. The Chair’s term will be for one year. The Chair shall hold the rank
of Professor, and shall be responsible for preparing the APT committee report and
the promotion dossiers for all candidates for appointment at the rank of Associate
Professor or Professor.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The deliberations of the APT Committee shall be conducted in strict compliance with all
applicable University and Campus policies. The deliberations shall be confidential. The
Committee shall be responsible for:

a. Reviewing candidates’ dossiers and making recommendations on the basis of
those reviews. The Dean may appoint 3- member subcommittees, as well as a
chair for the subcommittees, in concert with the APT chair, to review candidates’
records and prepare the dossiers for consideration by the full committee. Such
subcommittees may include Professors of the Practice within the School and
faculty from units outside the School, when appropriate, to assess the
performance of a candidate whose expertise is deemed under-represented on the
School’s faculty. These external members may be present when the School’s full
APT committee considers the case and may have voice but not vote.

b. Making recommendations to the Dean in regard to all cases of appointment,
promotion, non-promotion, and award of tenure. Recommendations will be made
by vote of the School’s APT committee. To conduct business and to take votes,
the APT Committee must have a quorum of its members present. For the purposes
of APT Committee discussion and action, a quorum is defined as one faculty
more than half of all faculty members holding the rank and above for the rank
under consideration, not including those faculty members on leave or on
sabbatical. Thus only those candidates with positive votes at or exceeding the
quorum will be recommended for appointment, promotion, and award of tenure.
Only those APT Committee members present may cast a vote for candidates
being considered for promotion from assistant professor to associate professor
with tenure. For APT Committee votes on appointments of external candidates,
electronic ballots may be used, which must be confidential.
3. Meetings

Written notice of APT committee meetings and copies of the candidate’s dossier shall be distributed to the membership with at least one-week advance notice, unless the majority of the APT Committee agrees to waive such notice.

a. Meetings of the School’s APT committee shall be chaired by the chair of the School APT.

b. The Dean may attend the meetings of the APT committee, and will have a voice but not a vote in these meetings.

4. APT actions

a. The vote of the APT committee is advisory to the Dean, who provides an independent decision on behalf of the School when recommending candidates to the Provost and President for appointment as associate and full professors and for questions of tenure. The Dean has the final decision on appointment of candidates.

b. Within two weeks of the vote of the APT committee and the Dean’s decision, the Dean shall (1) inform the candidate whether the recommendations made by the faculty committee and the Dean were positive or negative (including specific information on the number of faculty who voted for tenure and/or promotion, the number who voted against, and the number of abstentions), and (2) prepare for the candidate a letter summarizing in general terms the nature of the considerations on which those decisions were based. Summaries shall be provided to the candidate whenever either or both faculty and the Dean’s recommendations are negative. The chair of the faculty APT committee shall review the letter prepared by the Dean to ensure that it accurately summarizes the considerations regarded as relevant by the faculty APT committee. The chair of the faculty APT committee shall be provided access to the Dean’s letters to the candidate and to the campus APT committee to ensure that the summary accurately reflects the recommendation and rationale provided to higher levels of review. In addition, both letters shall be made available for review in the office of the Dean by any member of the faculty APT committee. In the event that the chair of the faculty committee and the Dean are unable to agree on the appropriate language and contents of the summary letter, each shall write a summary letter to the candidate. A copy of all materials provided to the candidate shall be added to the tenure or promotion file as the case proceeds through higher levels of review.
D. Faculty Merit and Salary Review Committee

1. The Faculty Merit and Salary Review Committee (FMSRC) evaluates the performance of faculty in teaching, research, and service, and makes recommendations to the Dean on faculty members’ performance.

2. The FMSRC consists of three members elected by a majority of the Faculty Committee of the School of Public Policy, through a secret ballot, and serve terms of one year. The committee consists of one professor (including professor of the practice), one assistant professor, and one professor without regard to rank. If the Dean believes that any group has been systematically underrepresented, he or she may appoint a member of that group as an additional member of the FMSRC.

3. The Dean may reserve a portion of the merit pool to address special salary problems within the School.

4. The FMSRC review is conducted during the spring semester. The elements of the review are as follows:

   a) The Faculty Committee elects FMSRC members by secret ballot during a faculty meeting before 15 March. Faculty who served on the FMSRC in the previous two years are not eligible to serve, except when there are fewer than three eligible faculty members. Tie votes are resolved by random draw among those who have not served in the last five years.

   b) Faculty members complete activity reports by 15 March. The activity reports should include a description of the faculty member’s contributions to scholarship, teaching, service to the School, public service, and a summary of the findings of the Post-Tenure Review Committee (see Article X). Faculty who do not complete an activity report will not be eligible for merit awards in that fiscal year. In general, the FMSRC should examine the performance of faculty members over the previous three years, including student teaching evaluations and comprehensive reviews conducted for appointment and promotion. For years when merit pay is not available, the achievements of the faculty members for that year (or years) will be taken into consideration during the next year in which merit pay is available.

   c) In late March, the Dean or an individual delegated by the Dean shall provide the FMSRC with a list of eligible faculty and copies of their faculty activity reports. All faculty members who were hired prior to the current academic year are eligible for review.
d) FMSRC will elect one of its members to serve as chair. FMSRC examines the activity reports, on the basis of each faculty member’s contributions to scholarship, teaching, service to the School, and public service. The assessment will examine the degree to which these contributions fit with the School’s standards for promotion and tenure. (Please see the separate School policy outlining the promotion and tenure standards.) The Dean will separately assess the performance of the members of the FMSRC. The FMSRC prepares a written evaluation of each faculty member. The chair will certify that the FMSRC has followed the merit pay distribution plan; if the FMSRC deviates from the plan, the chair will indicate the areas in which the deviations occur and provide a written rationale in its report. These evaluations are submitted to the Dean by 15 April.

e) The FMSRC’s role is advisory to the Dean. The Dean makes the final decisions on merit salary awards, based on the FMSRC’s evaluations, and reports these decisions to the FMSRC. The FMSRC produces a written report expressing its views on whether the Dean has followed the School’s merit and salary review policy.

f) The Dean notifies individual faculty members of their salary for the next fiscal year, the FMSRC’s evaluation of the faculty member, the faculty member’s right to request a meeting with the Dean to discuss the salary, and the right to appeal the salary decision.

g) Any faculty member who is dissatisfied with the merit salary increase should file a written appeal with the Dean. The Dean will consider the issues raised in the appeal, meet with the faculty member to discuss the issues, and inform the faculty member of the decision on the salary increase. If a faculty member remains dissatisfied, the faculty member may initiate a grievance according to the University of Maryland Policies and Procedures Governing Faculty Grievances.

5. The Dean will annually review the composition of the FMSRC over the past five years to assure that the FMSRC achieves a reasonable representation of faculty diversity. If the FMSRC has not proven sufficiently diverse, the Dean will take that fact into account in appointing the next year’s FMSRC.

6. The Dean will annually review the salary structure of the School. If the review reveals salary inequities or salary compression, the Dean will either adjust salaries to rectify the issue, or consult with the Provost on steps to address the issue.
Article X: Post-Tenure Review

1. In accordance with the policy of the University System of Maryland (19.0 II-1.19) and the policy of the University of Maryland College Park (II-1.20(A)), the School of Public Policy will conduct a regular, comprehensive review of tenured faculty. These reviews shall:

   a. Occur on a regular basis, not less than once every five years.

   b. Be a formative process for future faculty development, enhancing the learning environment of students, and improve the School’s programs.

   c. Take place in a process of collegial assessment.

2. Reviews conducted as part of assessment for appointment and promotion will be considered a comprehensive review, for the purposes of this policy.

3. Reviews will be scheduled, starting with the faculty who have served the longest in rank since the previous comprehensive review. The School shall endeavor to allocate the comprehensive reviews of tenured faculty so that approximately the same number of tenured faculty are reviewed each year. Faculty members shall be informed by the Dean, by July 1, of the schedule of the faculty members who will undergo post-tenure comprehensive reviews in each year.

4. By September 1 of the academic year in which a faculty member is scheduled to undergo a post-tenure comprehensive review, the faculty member will:

   a. Prepare a brief summary of the faculty member’s contributions in teaching, research, and public service since the last review.

   b. Submit copies of assessments of the impact of the faculty member’s work, including citation counts and other measures of scholarly accomplishment.

5. Each year, the Dean shall appoint a Post-Tenure Review Committee of three full professors. None of the members of the committee shall be faculty members scheduled for review in the current year. For each faculty member undergoing a comprehensive review, the Committee shall:

   a. Assess the faculty member’s teaching performance.
b. Assess the research, including the quality and impact of the scholarship.

c. Assess the public service, including contributions to the broader field of public policy and the impact of the service.

d. Assess the contributions to the School and University communities.

e. Rely on such additional information, such as citation indexes and other externally available data, as might prove useful in assessing the faculty member.

f. Write an appraisal that summarizes the faculty member’s contributions and impact. This appraisal shall normally be completed before the end of the fall term.

g. Share the draft appraisal with the faculty member, who shall have 14 days (or a mutually agreeable alternative date) to respond to the Review Committee’s comments.

h. Submit the final appraisal to the Dean.

6. The Dean shall communicate the review to the faculty member, along with an overall assessment of “meeting expectations” or “not meeting expectations.”

a. The Dean will discuss with the faculty member all aspects of the report.

b. For faculty members “not meeting expectations,” the Dean shall counsel faculty members on matters identified by the Review Committee as deficient, and the Dean shall work with the faculty member to create a faculty development plan. The plan shall include a procedure for evaluation of progress on an annual basis, and it shall be signed by the Dean and the faculty member.

c. The comprehensive review shall be considered in decisions by the School on promotion, merit pay, and other rewards.
7. The annual reviews conducted by the School as part of the annual salary and workload assessment (See Article IX Section D) shall be used as part of the comprehensive review. Two consecutive annual reviews that indicate a faculty member is materially deficient shall occasion a comprehensive review in the next academic year. That comprehensive review shall be in addition to reviews otherwise required by this policy.

Article XI: General

A. Quorum

Unless otherwise specified, to conduct business, a majority of members of each committee must be present.

B. Rules

Unless otherwise specified, *Roberts Rules of Order* will set the procedures for the conduct of business during the meetings of the School’s committees.

C. Review

The School’s Plan of Organization shall be reviewed at least every ten years by a committee elected by the School Assembly. This committee shall be comprised of representatives of the Faculty, Staff, and students.