



February 28, 2011

Dear Fellow KUCIMATS,

We are writing to you today to share the latest development from the University of Kansas regarding a major step forward: The recommendation by the University to the Kansas Regents to change the department to the **School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas**.

As we have learned and then conveyed over the last several months, advancement to being a School within the University versus being a department within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is an important milestone. The department of public administration has been housed in a number of different academic units within the University over time, from within the Political Science Department to a Division of Government to the current arrangement as part of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Now on the verge of becoming a School provides the sustainability (resources) for the long-term success for our KU MPA program. We are struck that within the University, there are around 70 departments and only 14 schools.

We know that the alumni clearly would have preferred the new School to have been called the School of Public Administration, as expressed in the results of last fall's survey. However, we understand that the alumni – as important as we have been and will be to the long-term success of the MPA program – are one of a number of constituencies that deserve consideration in this decision. Your KUCIMAT board is pleased that the alumni are becoming reconnected to the faculty and students, and that the faculty have heard our concerns about the name as a reflection of the program's history and strength. Therefore, we believe that the name as recommended by the faculty and accepted by the University administration is a sound decision. As a School, there will be opportunities that reach across the dimensions of public administration. With the Administration brand specifically included, the distinctiveness of KU's program will be preserved and strengthened. And this will in turn allow the University to offer maximum support and nourishment to the full-time internship option Master of Public Administration program focusing on practical local government leadership. We trust that alumni will continue to offer our strong support as well.

If you have not already, you have some opportunities/obligations as KUCIMAT alumni to act upon now:

- volunteering for one of the committees identified in the last KUCIMAT newsletter at KUCIMAT.org;
- responding to Ray Hummert's KUCIMAT alumni membership form for 2011;
- sharing your experiences, especially those of you who are retired and have excellent perspective, with the on-campus students, the faculty, your fellow KUCIMATS;
- coming to the ICMA Conference in Milwaukee in September (and/or the Kansas managers conference coming up in April) and joining us at the KUCIMAT Banquet; and
- providing a part-time internship opportunity at your organization for students on campus and full-time internship/job for those coming off campus to receive the same opportunities and start that you received in your career.

Sincerely,

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