

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NEW INSTITUTE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
HARKIN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to establish a new Harkin Institute of Public Policy which will report to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Executive Summary: The proposed Institute will honor Senator Tom Harkin, a distinguished ISU alumnus, who has served more than 35 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. The senator's policy concerns, including those related to agriculture, education, international affairs, disabilities, nutrition, health, and labor, will guide and direct the proposed institute's teaching, research, and outreach priorities. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. The creation of the proposed institute addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority of "educational excellence and impact."

Background:

- ◇ **Description of proposed institute.** The proposed institute will serve as the venue and catalyst for innovative interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach on local, state, national, and international public policy issues. Research teams will be positioned to make significant analytical and prescriptive contributions to the public debate on important social issues. It is expected to stimulate dynamic new learning opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students, including applied research experiences, public policy courses, and a certificate program in public policy. The curriculum additions will complement and strengthen the policy aspect of leadership and public service programs that augment specific majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as other colleges, such as Business, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Engineering.

The proposed institute will also become the repository for Senator Harkin's papers. In partnership with University Libraries, the institute will maintain the cataloged Tom Harkin Collection, which may include memorabilia, print, and digital materials for public and scholarly use. The Collection will be an integrated part of the Harkin Institute and assist in elevating the scholarly research associated with the institute.

The proposed institute will serve as a ready source of information and training programs on public policy issues for the state of Iowa and beyond. It is expected that the proposed institute will become a hub for public policy discussion and programming, and will host local, state, and national practitioners who are recognized leaders in development and impacts of public policy. Furthermore, the proposed institute will likely establish itself as a leading source for research and expertise on the Iowa Caucuses. It would provide systematic research on the caucuses which has not been done and serve as the repository of this important part of America's and Iowa's political history.

- ◇ Relationship of proposed Institute to other centers/institutes at the University. The proposed Institute will initially focus its work on key areas that reflect Senator Harkin's policy priorities and that are integral to Iowa State University's strategic plan – agriculture, education, international development, and domestic social welfare. There is no other center or institute at ISU with such a focus. The proposed institute would enhance the opportunities available to students who are interested in public policy.
 - ⇒ *Agriculture* – The impact of agricultural legislation on the quality of rural life, including the social welfare benefits for rural families and communities, has been central to Senator Harkin's tenure and it has a vital role in Iowa. This research focus would also encourage faculty to address environmental issues associated with rural life.
 - ⇒ *Education* – Educational reform remains a high priority locally, statewide, and across the nation. Research regarding education, from Head Start to K-12 to higher education, would focus on the impact of past reforms and the prospects for future changes in educational policy.
 - ⇒ *International Development* – The proposed institute would enhance collaborations among the research groups in the ISU Departments of Economics, Sociology, and Political Science that focus on global issues. International development research would also link directly to the priorities underpinning the Manatt-Phelps Lecture in Political Science and create a significant tie to the institute.
 - ⇒ *Labor, Health and Human Services* – Research on domestic social welfare in the proposed institute would expand on disability policies in the United States to include policy research on a number of factors, such as race, religion, and gender, which affect citizen participation in America's political and social life.
- ◇ Duplication. The University of Iowa has an Institute of Public Affairs. Its mission is to provide information and services that assist in maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness of Iowa's state and local governments. The focus of the Institute of Public Affairs is on educational programs, whereas the proposed institute would enable research, teaching, and outreach on public policy. The University of Iowa also has a Public Policy Center which focuses on public policy issues such as transportation, crime, and housing research whereas the proposed institute would focus on issues closely related to Senator Harkin's principal agenda in Congress, including agriculture, education, social welfare, and international development, and would draw on ISU's expertise in those areas. The University of Northern Iowa offers a Master of Public Policy Program that provides a forum for discussion and advancement of public policy research and for activities in the discipline and profession nationally.
- ◇ Trend at other state universities. Other state universities have established academic centers/institutes in honor of long-serving and effective members of Congress, including the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, Pete V. Domenici Institute for Public Policy at New Mexico State University, and Lott Leadership Institute at the University of Mississippi.
- ◇ Facilities. The proposed Institute will only require offices and seminar rooms which are currently available in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- ◇ Equipment. No special equipment will be required.

- ◇ Expected need. The proposed Institute is expected to continue as long as expendable income is generated from the endowed gift (in perpetuity).
- ◇ Costs. The cost of the proposed Institute is expected to be \$150,000 during Years 1-2; \$250,000 during Years 3-4; \$350,000 during Years 5-6; and \$425,000 during Year 7 and beyond.
- ◇ Funding sources. The proposed institute is expected to be funded entirely through gifts. Initial gifts totaling \$3 million are anticipated with the eventual goal of a \$10 million gift. The initial gift would allow for an annual operating budget of \$150,000 to be used in the following way – (1) appoint up to four Harkin Fellows in the social sciences or related fields on campus; (2) appoint one graduate assistant; (3) engage in outreach activities for the State of Iowa; and (4) support one staff member. An increase to \$425,000 of annual expenditures is projected when the gift goal of \$10 million is reached.
- ◇ Unique features. The proposed Institute would benefit the university and the state of Iowa while honoring one of the university's most successful and influential alumni. It would enable ISU to contribute further to national and international debate on critical contemporary social issues. By expanding its expertise in the proposed institute's focus areas, ISU faculty will become better positioned to assist the state's policymakers and to enhance contributions to policies nationally and internationally. The proposed institute would serve as a catalyst for initiating new research projects and furthering ISU's prominence in interdisciplinary research. It is likely to spur innovative teaching, enhance opportunities for students interested in public policy, and initiate additional educational and experiential opportunities for ISU students.
- ◇ Reporting structure. The proposed institute will report to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. An advisory board will be created to provide oversight for the institute. Initially, an internal faculty director will be named with the intention of conducting an external search for a director if funds become available to support a director's salary.