Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Transfer the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) in the Institute for Government and Public Affairs to The School of Social Work.

SPONSOR:

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

It is proposed to transfer the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) from the Institute for Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) to the School of Social Work (The School). Since its inception in 1989, CPRD has worked closely with many rural, suburban, and urban communities both in Illinois and across the United States in utilizing data to improve the lives of vulnerable populations. The Center has a special emphasis on research, evaluation, and the development of data systems for agency/service-provider self-study and program improvement.

JUSTIFICATION: (Please provide a brief but complete rationale for your request.)

The School of Social Work is committed to developing and disseminating knowledge that contributes to responsive social welfare policies, programs, and practices. The School promotes the values of the social work profession through its commitment to diversity and social justice, its focus on reciprocal interactions between people and their ecological systems, and its emphasis on the use of research-based practice with vulnerable and marginalized populations. It serves the citizens of Illinois by linking knowledge development to community needs, by educating students for public service in child welfare, health care, mental health, and school settings, and by sharing the School’s resources with the community.

Like the School of Social Work, CPRD has a long history of creating and maintaining successful collaborative partnerships with local, state, and national organizations, agencies, and businesses, especially in the human services sector. CPRD often plays an evaluative role in major state- and nation-wide initiatives. The data CPRD collects provides crucial feedback on the impacts programs make on communities.

CPRD concentrates its efforts in the areas of health and human service reform and prevention science. CPRD’s prevention efforts address the underlying causes and contributing factors that result in an array of health and social issues for children and families. The focus of CPRD’s research is developing, testing, evaluating and disseminating evidence-based programs, policies and practices targeting substance abuse, school failure, mental health, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy and other health and problem behaviors.

The Center focuses on an ecological framework, similar to that where populations and environment intersect. It specializes in policy analysis, applied research and evaluation, online data systems and professional development and training, and has developed special expertise in the areas of:

- Programs for children and families
- State and community prevention systems.

Both The School of Social Work and the CPRD have a focus on ecological systems and vulnerable/marginalized populations, have extensive collaborative relationships and share a commitment to research-based practice, data-driven decision making and public policy advocacy. The CPRD has a sophisticated research survey and data collection core which, along with its broad portfolio of state and national grant and contract projects, will provide
considerable research opportunities for School of Social Work BSW students, for doctoral student research and for faculty research collaborations.

The School of Social Work and CPRD share missions of improving human services through data-driven research. A great opportunity exists for shared research infrastructure through expanded:

- Research survey and data collection capabilities, and
- Data management services to both CPRD, the School’s Children and Family Research Center and School faculty.

As shown in the attached letter, IGPA supports this move.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

1) Resources
   a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

   The School of Social Work will not be providing financial support, as CPRD is supported entirely by external grants and contracts.

   b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

   Not applicable.

   c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

   CPRD is fully supported by external funds. ICR funds may be used to allow time for staff to develop future proposals, supervise student researchers, etc.

   d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

   All funds including grants, service activity, and indirect costs will be moved from IGPA to The School.

2) Resource Implications
   a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

   CPRD has no tenured-track staff, and its budget includes no lines for faculty. Any funds from the School will be used to develop shared services such as a Data Management Core.
b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.

Not applicable.

c. Please address the impact on the University Library

Not applicable.

d. Please address the impact on technology and space

CPRD is currently located in leased space. Current grants cover the leased cost. IT services for CPRD are currently provided by AITS. We will be planning to shift this support to School of Social Work Shared Services.

For new degree programs only:

3) Briefly describe how this program will support the University’s mission, focus, and/or current priorities. Include specific objectives and measurable outcomes that demonstrate the program’s consistency with and centrality to that mission.

4) Please provide an analysis of the market demand for this degree program. What market indicators are driving this proposal? What type of employment outlook should these graduates expect? What resources will be provided to assist students with job placement?

5) If this is a proposed graduate program, please discuss the programs intended use of waivers. If the program is dependent on waivers, how will the unit compensate for lost tuition revenue?

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG: Not applicable.
CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:

[Signature]
Unit Representative: 8-20-15
Date:

[Signature]
College Representative: 8-20-15
Date:

N/A
Graduate College Representative: 
Date:

N/A
Council on Teacher Education Representative: 
Date:
Senate Educational Policy Committee  
Bettina Francis  
Committee Chair  
320 Morrill Hall  
608 S. Wright St.  
Urbana, IL 61802  

Dear Educational Policy Committee:

For the past year, the School of Social Work has been meeting with the Center for Prevention Research and Development to identify ways to enhance collaborations, provide research opportunities for the School’s students and faculty, and plan for the building of shared research infrastructure.

As we share a common mission of improving the lives of vulnerable populations through the utilization of research-based practices, the transfer of The Center for Prevention Research and Development to the School of Social Work reflects our mutual ambition to strengthen and transform the delivery of human services and inform policy at a time of great challenges for the State of Illinois.

We hope they will soon be part of the School as evidenced by the unanimous vote by the School’s faculty on Monday, August 17, 2015.

Sincerely,

Wynne Sandra Korr  
Dean and Professor
TO: Senate Educational Policy Committee

FROM: Christopher Z. Mooney, Director

DATE: August 19, 2015

RE: Discussion of Potential CPRD Move to UIUC School of Social Work

This memo supports the proposal to pursue the transfer of the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) (UA) to the School of Social Work (SSW) (UIUC).

It may seem odd for an institute to be comfortable with one of its very successful centers moving to another unit, but this is an unusual situation. CPRD is indeed very successful at what it does, both programmatically and financially. Under the strong and energetic leadership of Director Peter Mulhall, and with a top-notch staff, CPRD has been expanding its reach significantly in recent years. Their work is highly valued by their funders, and they have a steady flow of important and lucrative grants and contracts.

The reason that IGPA supports CPRD’s move to SSW is primarily related to mission fit. Since I assumed the helm of IGPA in August 2013, we have been making a concerted effort to consolidate and focus our efforts on our core mission – faculty-driven public policy research and leadership training in service of the State of Illinois. Given the make-up of our faculty, there has been no overlap between their work and that of CPRD. This has led to a disconnect between CPRD and the IGPA faculty base. Thus, in this time of reorganization and focus, it will be mutually beneficial to IGPA and CPRD for the latter to find a home with a better mission fit. Clearly, SSW is the obvious choice within the U of I system, especially with CPRD’s location at UIUC and the relationship of its work with that of SSW’s faculty and other centers. Furthermore, my hope is that SSW’s expertise and economies of scale will allow for the financial management of CPRD to be accomplished more efficiently than IGPA can presently do.

CZM/jmb
August 19, 2015

Wynne Sandra Korr  
Dean and Professor  
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Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Dean Korr,

In reference to the proposed transfer of the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) from the Institute for Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) to the School of Social Work (The School), I would like to confirm that I foresee no impact on the University Library as a result of this transfer.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John P. Wilkin  
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson  
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian  
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign