March 2, 2012

1)  I support the overall objective of providing opportunities for our  
students to learn skills that would aid help them in entrepreneurship.  
 I think this is good for both our students (who get jobs) and society  
as a whole.  Both businesses and society benefit from having people  
with strong critical thinking skills and societal awareness, like our  
students.  
  
2).  I wholeheartedly support the development of the winterim program  
as well as the expansion of internships and experiential learning  
opportunities.  I personally have an interest in offering a practicum  
opportunity in conjunction with my public policy curriculum.  The  
effects of public policy are ubiquitous I think it would be beneficial  
for students to be able to both experience and academically evaluate  
how policy affects the private sector.  
  
3)  I'm wary possible curricular changes to create an entrepreneurship  
minor or major.  In particular, I'm wary of the "selection effects"  
this change could have on our student enrollment.  I recognize that  
attracting more (and male) students is a worthy goal, but I worry  
about the type of students that this program could attract.  I don't  
necessary worry about the observable "quality" of the student going  
down because I trust that our admission department would keep  
standards high.  I do, however, worry about the "unobservable" quality  
of the students.  It seems to me that our school thrives on students  
who are set on "exploration and discovery".  If even a fraction of the  
students who come to Lewis and Clark expressly seek out what they  
consider to be something similar to a pre-professional program it  
would be a significant detriment to our study body.  This, of course,  
is pure conjecture and I always like to make decisions on data, not  
conjecture.  For that reason I would really like to see some analysis  
-- both quantitative and qualitative - of the experiences of our peer  
schools in this regard.  
  
4) Looking at the list of peer schools I was most intrigued by  
Oberlin's model.  I also wanted to note that my alma mater, Drew  
University, implemented a business program in the last decade  
("Department of Economics & Business Studies"), so they should be  
added to your list.  Drew and Lewis and Clark actually have a lot of  
similarities!  
  
5) Finally, I also wanted to note that, based in part on my experience  
at Drew, I think that any entrepreneurship program should be kept  
entirely separate from the Economics department.  The skills of an  
economist and the skills of a entrepreneur are wildly different.  I  
think that these disciplines are too often mixed simply because they  
both have to do with money!  It's a silly association but I see it  
happen all the time  and I wouldn't want it to happen here.

Ellen Seljan