

FS P&BC Report to the Faculty Senate (11/26/2024)
on Proposed new Southern Police Institute Center for Training, Research, and Innovative Simulation (SPI TRAINS) in Arts & Sciences Criminal Justice

P&BC Review Process

P&BC reviewed the original proposal to submit a request for clarifications to the proposed Center Director on July 16, 2024. P&BC received clarifications (revised budget spreadsheet with clarifications) on November 14, 2024.

Overview (taken from formal Proposal and Budget spreadsheet):

The Southern Police Institute, Department of Criminal Justice, and Department of Theatre Arts propose the Center for Training, Research, and Innovative Simulation (SPI TRAINS) to develop and implement innovative simulation training – using human-based simulation, virtual reality, and other simulation modalities – to improve training effectiveness for criminal justice professionals. This will be done through hands-on experience in realistic scenarios which allow participants to practice skills with trained actors or virtual environments before entering the field. The goal of SPI TRAINS is to bring this style of training to criminal justice agencies in Louisville, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and throughout the United States.

This proposed Center will also provide research and evaluation services to local, state, and national criminal justice agencies through evaluating programming focused on reducing disparities in the criminal justice system (e.g., arrest, incarceration, traffic stops), evaluating training programs (e.g., correctional officers, police sexual assault investigations and cybercrime investigations), and assessing outcomes related to new and existing criminal justice policy initiatives (e.g., jail policy reform, drug policy, capital punishment, public opinion of crime policy). This Center will serve as a hub to focus criminal justice research efforts at UofL.

This Center will provide an opportunity for multiple disciplines to collaborate for the improvement of justice systems in the Commonwealth. This Center will give a formalized structure for Criminal Justice and Theatre Arts to continue their collaboration that brings simulation training to police agencies in Kentucky and beyond. This Center will facilitate an opportunity for Theatre Arts faculty and students to apply theatre skills to different disciplines. This would not only provide the opportunity for actors to further their skills in other contexts, but it would also provide opportunities for designers and technicians to apply their expertise by bringing a higher degree of fidelity to simulations through scenery, makeup, and costuming. Also, this Center will expand the Theatre Arts and Criminal Justice collaboration to other University disciplines such as (1) the School of Public Health and Information Sciences by assisting in their efforts for training individuals for the Louisville Metro Emergency Services Alternative Responder Evaluation projects, and (2) the Speed School of Engineering efforts in VR to build and develop virtual scenarios tailored toward training justice professionals in controlled environments.

Original P&BC Review and Comments (P = Proposal; B = Budget) :

P, pg9: Dr Campbell (Criminal Justice) will devote 0.15 FTE as Founding Director. Is this 15% of his 10-month appointment separate from a summer contract? Will he receive in addition x-pay of \$10,000. Is this x-pay for his 2-months of summer work outside his 10-month appointment (B, sheet 1) or is this x-pay added compensation during his 0.15 FTE in his 10-month appointment? Please clarify in the proposal pg 9.

P, pg9: Dr Campbell is currently PI on a Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance study. Does that pay for part of Dr Campbell's salary or for his summer contract? Does that end before the Center year 1 budget? If not, why is that grant/contract funds and expenses not part of the Center year 1 budget?

P, pg10: Dr Carter (Theatre Arts) will devote 0.15 FTE as Founding Associate Director. Is this 15% of her 10-month appointment separate from a summer contract? Will she receive in addition x-pay of \$8,000? Is this x-pay for her 2-months of summer work outside her 10-month appointment (B, sheet 1) or is this x-pay added compensation during her 0.15 FTE in her 10-month appointment? Please clarify in the proposal pg 10.

P, pg10: Dr Carter is currently PI on a State Funded grant. Does that pay for part of Dr Carter's salary or for her summer contract? Does that end before the Center year 1 budget? If not, why is that grant/contract funds and expenses not part of the Center year 1 budget?

P, pgs9-10: The discussion about FTE distribution among creative activity and service etc. is related to UofL annual work plans (AWP) and is not relevant to the Center proposal but adds confusion to any reader who is not well-versed in the UofL AWP process. Recommend deletion of this part of the discussion to avoid confusion.

P, pgs10-12; and B, sheet1: It is very difficult to match up the proposal narrative pgs 10-12 to the Separate budget spreadsheet 1. The Budget spreadsheet should standalone such that financial review can take place without referral to the proposal narrative. Each item in the budget spreadsheet line item should have a justification/explanation in the spreadsheet to make it easy for reviewers (BOT, others) to arrive at financial assessment.

B, lines 53-56 have faculty salaries, x-pay and benefits lines. Yet, the faculty salary number appears to include the benefits, but the x-pay line does not.

B, line 9: What is this Capital of \$54,000? Where from, etc?

P, pg12 and B, line 1/108: There appears to be \$20,000 for equipment purchase in the proposal narrative but the budget has \$20,000 for supplies and maintenance, not purchase. At best, this is a mislabel. Where does the \$54,000 "capital" in the revenue side appear as capital equipment in the expense side? Capital is usually used for asset gain but not for "consumables."

P, pg12: Narrative projects new training courses will generate \$162,000 to \$216,000 in future revenue over 3 years; however, there is no projection in the budget spreadsheet.

Will the proposed Center (which includes SPI in it's name) become the home for the Southern Police Institute which is the major current revenue source? If not, why not? If so, agreement of the SPI director is not needed for development of future budgets.

Comments on Revised Proposal:

The P&BC finds that this proposed SPI-TRAINS Center proposal has strong rationale, potential, and likelihood for success in UofL outreach and community impact.

P&BC recommended significant revisions (detailed in previous paragraph) in the budget spreadsheet along with clarifications in the narrative text on pgs10-12. The proposer revised the budget spreadsheet and proposal narrative (pgs 10-12) to make the appropriate clarifications. P&BC recommends FS approval for recommendation of this proposed Center to the Provost.

Pat

Patrick D. Harris, PhD

Chair of the FS Planning & Budget Committee

Faculty Senate Planning & Budget Committee

Sara Choate, School of Public Health & Information Sci, Health Promotion & Behavioral Sci

Fannie Cox, University Libraries, Reference Assistance & Instruction

Thomas Edison, College of Arts & Sciences, Modern Languages

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Eugene Mueller, Faculty Senate Chair, Ex Officio

Sherri Wallace, Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Ex Officio

Cherie Dawson, Vice Provost, Office of Provost, Ex Officio

Jill Mullaney, Office of Vice President for Finance, Ex Officio

Adam Detherage, HSC Director of Finance, Staff Senate Rep, Ex Officio

Macy Waddle, SGA Academic Vice President, Ex Officio