CSPA school plans to survive despite crippling budget cuts

By Debbie Howlett

Founded in times of financial plenty, "suspended" in times of financial strain, the University's School of Community Service and Public Affairs still plans to continue teaching "marketable" service skills.

'The school was originally set up to provide a degree that is marketable in a range of community service occupations," says Ken Tollenaar, acting dean of CSPA. "It remains an important objective at this point."

During the final week of winter term, University Provost Richard Hill, a former dean of CSPA. announced that the school would be suspended, the dean's office eliminated, and the programs within the school merged with other campus programs. The cut was the first to essentially eliminate a professional school since the administration warned that those kinds of cuts were impending.

Tollenaar says the school has already "taken its share of lumps," and that the University is losing an outstanding "applied social science" program

"We are highly vocationally oriented." Tollenaar says, adding that 12 the school has made it a point to work with the community through internships and practicum programs.

'We expect our graduates to walk out and get entry level, or middle management jobs - I don't see that as changing," Tollenaar says.

What will change, by July 1, is the administrative arrangement of the school. The community service curriculum is merging with programs in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, while the public affairs section will move into the department of urban and regional planning

Norm Sundberg, a psychology professor and the first dean of CSPA. agrees with Tollenaar that the University is retaining the substance within the

"I'm very disappointed as most people are and I hope that it will be restored," Sundberg says. However, he adds that the restoration is probably a distant hope and



Ken Tollenaar

that for the time being a departmental CSPA is better than no CSPA at all.

Nostalgia enters Sundberg's voice when he talks about the first years of CSPA. He jokes and says he is the "founding dean." Almost immediately Sundberg offers past University Pres. Art Flemming as the major impetus for a professional school in CSPA

The school officially opened in 1967, Sundberg says. "There was quite a bit of enthusiasm at the time; in fact, I think it's been pretty well received all along.

The school started with a \$1.5 million grant from Lila Wallace, one of the founders of Reader's Digest and an alumnus of the University. The state supplied about half of the funds for the first five years while Wallace's grant supplied the other half.

In the early 1970s the University took complete responsibility for the school. But, for the first five years, according to Sundberg, there was substantial expansion of the program.

was quite well supported by the state then," Sundberg says. "The whole University was expanding in the late '60s and early '70s.

But the funding feast of the 1960s gave way to the financial famine of the 1980s. The school was beginning to feel the effect of a starved budget as early as 1977 when the University lopped off \$300,000 from its budget, nearly half of the previous year's funding.

During a discussion of present budget cuts, Carl Hosticka, an assistant CSPA professor, said that the cut in 1977 took 50 percent of the school's funds and improved the school's capabilites 100 percent. But Hosticka also said that cuts now would not have such an effect, and that they could only be devastating

Tollenaar is quick to point out that the programs won't revel in a passive role. Earlier this month, Tollenaar defined the suspension as a cut of administration only. The shuffle of curricula will still allow a degree in community service or public affairs, said Tollenaar.

"The University in general Facts and figures for CSPA

	Faculty FTE*	Degrees	Credits
1967-68	11.4		3,982
1968-69	16.6	4	15,984
1971-72	23.4	121	13,394
1975-76	25.0	135	18,395
1980-81	15.8	115	12.735

*Full-time equivalent, used as a measure of the number of faculty positions within the University. Source: "The Wallace School of CSPA: A Briefing Paper" CSPA Ad Hoc Committee.





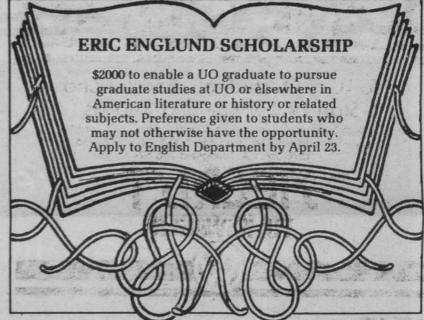
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