

## POLICY PROJECTS

Students in Public Policy Methods complete policy analyses on randomly assigned issues. Over the course of the semester, they do memorandum exercises intended to help them apply concepts introduced in [Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice](#) to their issues. Near the end of the semester, each student submits a fifteen page policy analysis (exclusive of an executive summary and an *unlimited* number of pages of appendices) to me and to one other student. The other student writes a collegial critique and I prepare a more comprehensive evaluation following a [template](#) that helps me cover important points systematically.

### **Projects for Spring 2005 randomly assigned from the following list:**

What policies should major league baseball adopt to discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs such as steroids? Client: Commissioner of Baseball

Every three years the University of Wisconsin-Madison must renew its Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) for human subjects research with the Office of Human Research Protection, Department of Health and Human Services. The current FWA requires all research, not just that funded by the federal government, to be subjected to review by a campus institutional review board (IRB). Should the FWA be revised to exclude some non-federally funded social science research involving low risk to human subjects from IRB review? Client: Vice Chancellor for Research

Halloween crowds have caused public order problems on Madison's State Street in recent years. What policies should the City of Madison adopt to reduce the seriousness of these problems in the future? Client: Madison Mayor

Should Wisconsin change the way it deals with shortages of influenza vaccine? Client: Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services

There are currently six reportable sexually transmitted diseases in Wisconsin. Should the list of reportable diseases and its associated policies be modified? Client: Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services

The Department of Natural Resources has established Disease Eradication Zones and Herd Reduction Zones in response to the detection of chronic wasting disease in Wisconsin deer. Should policies for implementing eradication and reduction be changed? Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

Insurance regulations in Wisconsin requiring multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWAs) either to obtain third-party coverage or to register as insurers in order to provide health insurance have hindered the cooperative provision of health insurance by small businesses. Should state laws be changed to facilitate MEWAs? Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Insurance

Property taxes in Wisconsin place financial pressure on some retirees and low income home owners. Consider state policies that could help reduce this pressure. Client: Chairpersons, Joint Committee on Finance

The development of wind power in Wisconsin has been slowed by community opposition to the creation of wind farms. Should laws or administrative procedures be changed to make it easier for landowners to lease sites for wind farms? Client: Chairperson, Senate Energy and Utilities Commission

Wisconsin currently charges a flat annual registration fee of \$55 per passenger vehicle. Should fees be based on vehicle weight, age, value, or other characteristic? Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Approximately \$250 million dollars in sales taxes on internet purchases by Wisconsin residents go unpaid annually. Should the state take any steps beyond participation in the Streamlined sales Tax Project to collect these taxes? Client: Secretary, Department of Revenue

Several states have changed their governing the release of information in adoption records to adult adoptees. Should Wisconsin adoption record laws be changed? Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging, and Long Term Care

Are Wisconsin regulations governing tattoo and body piercing establishments and practitioners appropriate? Client: State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases, Department of Health and Family Services

Should the Department of Regulation and Licensing be authorized to provide more information to the public about complaints and malpractice suits filed against Wisconsin physicians?

Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging, and Long Term Care

The Patent and Trademark Office has a backlog of over a half-million patent applications to review. Should the patent review process or extent of coverage be modified? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, House Judiciary Committee

What strategies and policies should the federal government adopt to revitalize the nuclear power industry? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, House Energy and Commerce Committee

Should the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act be amended to require the Food and Drug Administration to make greater use of post-marketing surveillance (Phase IV studies)? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Energy and Commerce Committee

Is the current regulation of direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs appropriate? Client: Administrator, Food and Drug Administration

The Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act (P.L. 108-216) authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to states and other entities to reimburse live organ donors for their travel and other expenses. How should the Secretary implement this law? Client: Director, Division of Transplantation, Department of Health and Human Services

Should the Federal Communications Commission be prohibited from making further reductions in the spectrum allocated to amateur radio operators? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Hospital Quality Initiative now makes some information about hospital treatment patterns available to the general public. What should be the next steps in developing this hospital report card? Client: Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services

In recent years there have been shortages not just of influenza vaccine but of several others as well. Should federal policies be changed to reduce the likelihood of such shortages in the future? Client: Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

A tradeable credits system for fuel economy standards would require automakers that do not meet Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to purchase credits from automakers that have exceeded standards. Should a tradeable credits system be adopted? Client: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The Energy Policy Act of 2002, which was not adopted, included provisions for a Federal Renewable Portfolio Standard, which would have required utilities to certify that percentages of their residential electricity is generated from non-hydro renewable sources. Should a standard of this sort be adopted? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration share responsibilities for ensuring the safety of food. Each is subject to a variety of laws that hinder the allocation of resources to minimize risks. Should a Food Safety Administration, such as that called for in S. 2910, be created? Client: Chair, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

Should the Federal Water Pollution Control Act be amended to allow for the establishment of wetland mitigation banks to allow for the creation of credits for new wetlands to offset wetland losses? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Should the Forest Service be directed to change its policies regarding the prevention and control of forest fires? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, House Resources Committee

Internet Protocol (IP) telephony raises issues about universal service contributions. Should charges be imposed on either IP telephony generally or IP telephony connecting to conventional telephone networks? Client: Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

Many landlords do not install meters for individual apartments. One reason may be that, if a landlord installs more than 15 such meters and bills tenants for their individual water use, then the landlord is considered to be selling water and is subject to the full regulatory requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Should relevant regulations be revised to encourage tenant-level metering of water? Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Should the United States encourage South Africa to seek listing of its endemic abalone (Perlemoen) in Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora? Client: Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans, Fisheries, and Marine Conservation, Department of State

The European Commission previously proposed closing the North Sea cod fishery to allow for species recovery. The Fisheries Council recently issued a policy for 2005 that involves reductions in fishing days and other regulations. Should the Commission seek further protections for the North Sea cod fishery? Client: European Commission

It now appears that a vaccine providing at least some protection against malaria will be available soon. How might it be used effectively to reduce the burden of malaria in the poorest countries of the world? Client: Director-General, World Health Organization