

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 2007 randomly assigned from the following list:

A number of nations have expressed concern about the Japanese “scientific” whaling program (JARPA II). What position should the United States take on this issue, either through the International Whaling Commission, or otherwise? Client: Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Do international laws adequately promote the prevention and mitigation of oil spills? Client: International Oil Spill Conference 2008

What steps, if any, should the World Health Organization take to speed the use of the human papillomavirus vaccine in developing countries? Client: Director-General, World Health Organization

Hospitals must dispose of large quantities of unused pharmaceuticals. Sometimes hospitals simply put them down the drain, raising concerns about their active ingredients ending up in water tables, lakes, and streams. The concern is greatest for antibiotics, but there may be risks associated with other drugs as well. The problem is complicated because of regulations imposed by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Should the Department of Health and Human Services develop more stringent national standards on the disposal of pharmaceuticals? Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

Judges in Wisconsin take a variety of approaches to support the collection of fines: revocation of drivers’ licenses, imposition of jail time, and referral to collection agencies. The Dane County circuit court recently stopped imposing jail time. Should there be statewide guidelines or policies on sanctions against those with outstanding fines? Client: Chief Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court

Some Wisconsin municipalities are attempting to impose residential restrictions that would effectively bar convicted sex offenders from living within their boundaries. Review Wisconsin policies concerning restrictions on convicted sex offenders. Specifically, should the state preempt local residential restrictions? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Corrections, and Privacy

Some residents have raised concerns that Madison is not “pedestrian friendly.” Is there a problem? If so, what should the city do about it? Client: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

The SAGE program provides aid to school districts to reduce class sizes for low income children in grades K to 3. In 2006-07 expenditures will be almost \$100 million. Should the SAGE program be continued, expanded, contracted, or modified? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education

In 2006 deaths and illnesses resulted from people consuming spinach inflected *E. coli*. Should the Food and Drug Administration change any of its policies to reduce the risk of similar problems in the future? Client: Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

On December 11, 2006 the Food and Drug Administration proposed rules to expand access to experimental (investigational new) drugs for use in treatment. Consider the desirability of the proposed rule and possible alternatives to it. Client: Chair, United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Should Wisconsin adopt restrictions on the use of cell phones in moving vehicles? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Transportation

Should the “super-priority” provisions of federal bankruptcy law be revised to provide greater protection for workers’ pensions? Client: Chair, Senate Judicial Committee

An influenza pandemic would place great demands on the health care system. Review Wisconsin’s plans for providing hospital beds during an influenza pandemic and consider possible alternatives for increasing the number that would be available. Client: Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

In December 2006, the FCC issued an order intended to eliminate unreasonable barriers to entry into the cable market. Should the FCC take further steps to increase competition in the provision of multichannel video programming? Client: Chairperson, Federal Communications Commission

The Wisconsin deer population is about 50 percent above the established goal. Consider changes in hunting restrictions and other policies that would help meet the goal. Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture funds a school breakfast program. Nationally, about 45 percent of children from low income households participate. In Wisconsin, the participation rate for poor children is only 29 percent. Should Wisconsin take steps to increase participation in this program? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education

Should Madison restrict the number of liquor licenses issued in the downtown area? Client: President, Madison Common Council

In 2005 Wisconsin stopped indexing its gasoline tax for inflation. Should Wisconsin reinstate indexing or take any other steps to increase revenues for funding highways? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Focus on Energy provides some assistance to farmers considering the installation of anaerobic manure digesters. Should the state take additional steps to speed the introduction of this technology? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Agriculture

The Department of Energy's Off-Site Source Recovery Project was created to provide a disposal option for unwanted greater-than-class-C-radiation sources. Consider changes in the project to speed the retirement of blood irradiators employing Cesium 137 compounds. Client: Chair, United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

What, if anything, should the federal government do to increase the supply of nurses in the United States? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

In 2004 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a rule setting limits on wastes generated by fish farms. Do these regulations adequately address the environmental impacts produced by this industry? Client: Chair, Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture

Historically, private firms extracting oil and gas from off-shore sites have paid a royalty to the federal government equal to 12.5 percent of its value. In recent years there have been a variety of adjustments to this basic rate to encourage exploration and development, especially in the Gulf of Mexico. Should the current structure of off-shore royalty payments be changed? Client: Chair, United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Assess Wisconsin funding of special education. In particular, should Wisconsin adopt a funding mechanism similar to the McKay program in Florida, which provides funding as vouchers to students with disabilities rather than to school districts? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education