Title: Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Public Affairs: A Proposal to support Rockefeller College's Public Service Weekend

Responsible Unit: Rockefeller College

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, with the support of PPIA and NASPAA, our accrediting body, will host a Public Service Weekend (PSW) each fall. The PSW is designed to introduce students from diverse backgrounds to educational opportunities and careers in public service. By hosting a PSW, we will bring undergraduate students – the majority of which are members of historically underrepresented groups – to campus and expose them to our alumni, faculty and staff as well as opportunities for graduate education at UAlbany. Additionally, the PSW helps raise our profile and potentially our national ranking, which has a direct impact on graduate recruitment. Finally, it signals to potential students that UAlbany is committed to diversity and inclusion.

Over the course of the weekend, students will be provided with a general understanding of the educational and career options that are available to them in public service and international affairs. To accomplish this, students will attend informational sessions led by faculty and professionals as well as smaller breakout sessions focused on their particular areas of interest. In addition, faculty and staff will be available to talk to students individually or in very small groups to provide advising and to answer any questions that the students may have. Professional staff from the College’s Office of Career Development will also lead several professional skills workshops designed to introduce students to the professional and soft skills that they will need in order to begin their careers.

In addition to these sessions and workshops, students will be given a case study and split into small groups to work on the scenario. The case will give the students hands-on experience dealing with a current issue in public affairs.

Students will also be provided with structured social events to get to know each other, Rockefeller College alumni and current students, the University, and City of Albany.