

Wolfskill

Proposed Critique of Material relating to
an Institute of Urban Affairs:

I. Basic Profile of the Area:

- A. S.M.S.A.'s;
- B. C.O.G. (North Texas area) extent;
- C. Units of Government in Dallas and Tarrant SMSA's and surrounding counties;
- D. Comparisons in size and scope of other metropolitan areas;
- E. Economics of Area:
 1. Costs of Government;
 2. Tax Base;
 3. Concentrations of wealth, income, employment, etc.
 4. Schools;
 5. Transportation, etc.;
- F. Lack of Analytical Studies or Research Facilities.

↑
II. Origin of Idea of Institute of Urban Affairs at A.S.C.:

- A. Included along with proposals for a major in Government ('59);
- B. Correspondence with Prof. Robert Wood of M.I.T., Spring, '65;
- C. Proposals of Senator Don Kennard, Spring, 1965;
- D. D. E.C. Barksdale and proposals in November, 1965;
- E. Group of faculty proposed to Pres. Wolf in Feb. or Mar., '66.

III. Letters sent to colleges and other groups: (perhaps appendices)

- A. Data Received (scope);
- B. Analysis;

IV. Profiles of Institutions of other Colleges and Universities;

- A. Origin
- B. Scope (size) of staff;
- C. Nature of Professional Qualifications;
- D. Teaching Role
- E. Research Role;

F. "Directing Role"; (Involvement in Governments)

G. Curricula Developed (various directions taken)

H. Financing:

1. Appropriations (Academic, etc.);
2. Contract Research;
3. Foundations;
4. Other

H. Suggestions of Pitfalls.

V. Proposal for A.S.C. (necessarily interdisciplinary)

A. Disciplines Involved:

1. Government
2. History
3. Sociology
4. Economics
5. Business Administration
6. Civil Engineering
7. Industrial Engineering
8. Architecture (need for Degree program);
9. Geography (need for Dept. and Degree Program);

B. Budget;

C. Staff;

D. Curriculum; -

E. Possible Areas of Service (Research and Information); -

F. Relation to Academic Program; -

G. Sources of Financing. -

Organizations and Activities which are basically
non-academically oriented

Attempts to evaluate the existing collegiate Institutes of Urban Affairs have been coupled with contacts and advice of a considerable number of basically non-academically-based organizations. Their replies ranged from suggested contacts with Urban Affairs Institutes, to ideas to be incorporated in such a proposed activity.

Two of the organizations contacted indicated that they had no specific data which would be of assistance in this project. These were: 1. The American Sociological Association; and 2. The National Planning Association.

The International City Managers' Association had no information which would be of substantive assistance, but suggested that the American Society for Public Administration be contacted. Similarly, although the Council of State Governments does not maintain a list of collegiate Institutes of Urban Affairs, it was suggested that the Center for Urban Studies of the University of Chicago be contacted. The Social Science Research Council had no current data on urban institutes but suggested contacts be made with the Committee on Urban Economics at Resources for the Future (Washington, D.C.) and the Joint Center for Urban Studies at M.I.T.--Harvard.

Resources for the Future, Inc., suggested a number of institutions to contact:

1. Institute of Government and Public Affairs, UCLA, Los Angeles;
2. Institute for Urban and Regional Studies, Washington University, St. Louis;
3. Metropolitan Studies Program, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.
- 4., Joint Center for Urban Studies, M.I.T.--Harvard.

The National Municipal League, expressing interest in the proposed venture, but having little information on which to make a specific recommendation, referred inquiries to John Bebout, at the Urban Studies Center at Rutgers -- The State University, New Brunswick, N.J.

Although unable to comment on strengths or weaknesses of existing urban affairs centers, George A. Bell, Director of Research of The Council of State Governments, made one suggestion:

I would like to make one suggestion relating to our particular interest, state government. States have a vital role to play in the consideration and solution of urban problems since the states grant municipal powers, authorize inter-local relationships, and can enter into agreements with other states on the problems crossing state lines. I believe any institute should recognize the important role of the states and should provide for participation of state officials in conferences and seminars in urban problems. (Letter, February 11, 1966)

Another significant comment, although with different emphasis came from G.M. Robbins, Associate Director, Community, Inc.,

Kansas City, Missouri:

I suppose the major point that occurs to me, when asked about the formation of such centers, is the problem of the dissemination and utilization of research. In the case of universities, this tends to be a somewhat more acute problem since there are various historical reasons and policy reasons why universities have not become particularly involved in the urban centers about them. When the universities have become involved, they generally have done so through their extension centers which tend to be staffed with the second class faculty. If the University could establish as a major policy that it has a definite interest in becoming involved in urban policymaking, and this interest is buttressed by graduate programs which attempt to interest graduate students in doing urban research, and if the faculty who do get involved in urban affairs are based in the academic departments, I think that there is a greater probability of effective involvement by the university in contemporary urban problems.

Urban America Inc., The Action Council for Better Cities, had no specific criteria to suggest but suggested that contacts be made with: 1. The American Institute of Planners; and 2. The American Society of Planning Officials.

The American Society of Civil Engineers was concerned with the role of Civil engineers in urban planning, feeling that this role has been ignored too often. Reference was given by ASCE to Institutes at three academic institutions: 1. The University of Pennsylvania; 2. Washington University, at St. Louis; and 3. Harvard--M.I.T. Joint Studies Group.

The American Political Science Association suggested that two institutions be contacted: 1. Joint Harvard--M.I.T. Urban Affairs Center, and 2. Syracuse University Metropolitan Affairs Center.

The American Society of Planning Officials sent a list of Urban Studies Centers compiled in 1964 by the Urban Studies Center at Rutgers--The State University, but suggested no criteria. Each of the Institutes on this list has been contacted for assistance.

The American Society for Public Administration also suggested no criteria but referred inquiries on such data to the Harvard--M.I.T. Urban Affairs Institute.

Although indicating that the Brookings Institution has the answers desired by those planning an Institute of Urban Affairs at Arlington State College, Mr. John Osman of the Senior Staff suggested that he, or some other member of the staff, or some outside consultant be called in to discuss the problems of an Institute. Suggested were staff members of the West Philadelphia Corporation, or the Chairman, Center for Planning and Development Research, University of California, Berkeley.

Action, Incorporated, of New York City, assists cities desiring to achieve urban renewal through voluntary action. A list of thirty-three organizations, ranging from The American Institute of Architects,

to the United Savings and Loan League, with a statement of purpose from each organization. This compilation is of extremely limited value.

The Center for Urban Education sent a Progress Report of a grant request for the U.S. Office of Education, "Toward a Regional Education Laboratory in the Center for Urban Education." In the field of educational analysis, this material would be of some value, but not in the broader field of urban studies of greater variety.

One of the most interesting, and probably helpful documents was that provided by PENJERDEL. Concerned as it was with a multiple state situation (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware), PENJERDEL dealt with a multitude of problems which could involve a number of cities in a complex urbanized situation. (Planning, Transportation, Air Resources, Waste Disposal, Regional Data Service, Health, Education and Welfare, Library Service, Employment Service, Economic Development and Advance Acquisition of Land). This report might be of value in studying the involvement of colleges, universities and private as well as public activities in urban research.