Public Service Values: Measurement and Analysis of the Basis of Government Decisionmaking

The work of public officials requires that tenuous balances be struck between values that are, by their very nature, inherently in conflict. That which is right in one circumstance can be and often is wrong in another. We argue that public service values are best thought of as dichotomous constructs, with antipodes equally viable as justifications for public action in some circumstances. Understanding and characterizing public service values thus requires both understanding the dichotomous value constructs used by practicing managers and the contexts in which those values are appropriately invoked. This presentation will focus on measurement and analysis approaches prevalent in examination of value constructs, provide a demonstration of the approaches undertaken by the author, and solicit feedback regarding new potential approaches for eliciting and analyzing dichotomous and/or ordinal value constructs.

Thursday, November 3, 2011
4:00 p.m. – 203 TMCB
A reception for faculty and graduate students to meet Dr. Witesman will be held prior to the seminar at 3:30 PM in 235 TMCB.