



### **IGS and GSPP Providing Technical Assistance to a Mexican NGO: *Transparencia Mexicana***

In May of this year Bruce Cain, Director of the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) and Blas Pérez Henríquez, Director of Executive and International Programs (EIP) at the Goldman School of Public Policy, provided technical assistance to the Mexican chapter of Transparency International, known in Spanish as *Transparencia Mexicana*.

Transparency International is a non-governmental organization based in Berlin, Germany dedicated to increasing government accountability and curbing international and national corruption. This international non-governmental organization and its national chapters work under four premises:

- **Humanitarian** – Corruption undermines development and leads to increasing levels of human rights abuse.
- **Democratic** – Corruption undermines democracy.
- **Ethical** – Corruption undermines a society's integrity.
- **Practical** – Corruption distorts the operations of markets and deprives ordinary people of the benefits that should flow from them.

Following the visit to the UC Berkeley campus of Eduardo Bohórquez, Executive Director of Transparencia Mexicana, in December 1999, *Transparencia* requested EIP to develop a capacity building program customized to their needs. In a joint effort, IGS and GSPP conducted a two-day workshop in Mexico City at *Transparencia Mexicana's* central offices. The EIP program included a series of comparative policy lectures by Cain on ethics, accountability and the public's right to information and "sunshine" laws. Pérez-Henríquez also provided technical assistance and training in how to conduct and facilitate focus group meetings. As stated by *Transparencia's* President, Federico Reyes Heróles, these training sessions were held in preparation of *Transparencia Mexicana's* national forum on corruption in Mexico. The goal of this national forum was to identify

the top ten policy recommendations for introducing transparency and ethical practices in the public and private sectors. Once devised, these policy recommendations are to be presented to the new president of Mexico.

Satisfied with the success of the national forum on corruption and on UC Berkeley's participation, Mr. Bohórquez, coordinator of the project, remarked,

“Using a participatory method, the exercise “10 Actions in favor of transparency and control of corruption” became a guide map on these important issues. The model allowed for the formulation of a general diagnosis on the achievements and the strategy for combating corruption in Mexico. The result of months of work was not *Transparencia Mexicana*'s perception on the issue, but rather the consensus of a group of more than 40 participants that represented the private sector, academia and governmental agencies in Mexico. To defeat the intrinsic risks of such an exercise, the technical assistance of Bruce Cain and Blas Pérez Henríquez from UC Berkeley was key. “10 Actions” was an innovative process that should be carefully studied and monitored. By cooperating with all of their interest, rigor and generosity, their intervention was crucial for the success of the project.”