Discussion Board Post for class on January 28, 2019

1. Considering Stone’s discussion, which of the two dominant paradigms (Market v. Polis or RAM v. Politics or System 1 v. System 2 thinking – where the first item in the pair represents the dominance of rational thought and the second the dominance of reflexive, subconscious, non-fact driven thought) best captures the policy process as it applies to your policy domain and specific policy. Why? (2 short paragraphs)

I believe the Rational Actor Model (RAM) v. Politics paradigm best captures the policy process as it applies to the policy domain of technology transfer policy and the specific policy of funding Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) projects. Public Law 97-219 (Small Business Innovation Act of 1982) created the SBIR program. The legislation was the result of the passage of H.R.4326 (Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982) by the House of Representatives and S.881 (Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982) by the Senate during the 97th Congress (1981-1982). One of its four stated objectives is to increase the transfer of innovations derived from Federal research and development to the private sector. The program was most recently reauthorized through FY2017 by the Public Law 112-81 (2012 Defense Authorization Act). There have been several attempts to amend the law, the most recent being H.R.447 (SBIR Enhancement Act of 2011) introduced in the House during the 112th Congress (2011-2012).

The conflict and debate about this specific policy seems to be centered around discussions of the public interest and driven by interpretations of the data, facts, and information presented by various interested parties. Moreover, there does not seem to be any overriding metaphor or analogy that is being used to frame the debate, which would be indicative of efforts to employ System 1 thinking.

1. In two or three succinct sentences, comment on two of your colleagues’ discussion board entries that you find intriguing, disagree with, or can expand upon.

TBD