



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**GREEN BAY**

Date: May 3, 2017

To: Katia Levintova, Chair Political Science

From: Scott Furlong, Dean of College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Re: Report on the Political Science Program Review

The Political Science program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay is a disciplinary program that offers both a major and minor. There are currently seven political science faculty, but one serving as a full time administrator. It is important to note that the remaining six faculty are covering a range of courses outside of the Political Science disciplinary program so that the actual number of faculty “dedicated” to Political Science is closer to 2.5-3 FTE. The program has an extremely talented and productive faculty. They are active in their scholarship and have been at the forefront of a variety of activities to improve student learning in the classroom. Political Science supports other majors on campus including Public Administration, Environmental Policy and Planning, Democracy and Justice Studies, and to a lesser extent Urban and Regional Studies. It is also heavily involved in general education particularly its courses in American Government and Politics and Global Politics and Society, First Year Seminars, and the GPS program.

**Enrollment Trends/Resource Issues:**

Enrollments in Political Science have decreased over the past seven years from a high of 92 to a low of 65. Minors have remained somewhat steady (in the 30s). This was after some tremendous growth in the number of majors prior to this point. Enrollments in their courses are very healthy at both the upper and lower level. There has been a decrease in average section size at both the lower and upper levels, with a particularly precipitous drop in the lower level lectures. I would hypothesize that some of this is due to the changing general education requirements, coupled with general reductions in total student enrollments, and more students entering with some type of social science credit from high school. The program has adjusted to this to some extent through their participation in the FYS and GPS programs (which also carry required, lower course caps). They have expanded their social media presence, and are active in student recruitment.

Faculty resources within the program have remained somewhat consistent for a number of years. There has been some turnover in faculty since the last review due to resignations. One position (in International Relations) has not yet been refilled. The program faculty currently are at early points in their career (there is currently only one tenured faculty, not counting the dean), but as a whole are strong and well on their way to promising careers.

**Assessment:**

Political Science primarily uses an embedded assessment to evaluate their five student learning outcomes. They do their embedded assessments within their core upper level classes examining each of their learning outcomes in seven different classes. They also use the senior and alumni surveys as a source of information. The creation of a senior seminar occurred as one result of the assessment. The faculty continues to discuss their assessment methods and results for further refinements.

**Curriculum:**

Since the last review, Political Science has added a few courses including a FYS and a Senior Capstone. The curriculum has a number of examples where students are engaging in hands-on practices as part of the class. For example, the Public Policy Analysis classes conduct an actual policy analysis. Faculty are highly engaged in the development of teaching and to both SoTL research and civic engagement activities. They are also highly involved in the FYS and GPS programs. Faculty-student collaborations are evident in a number of areas including internships, research, teaching assistants and others. Students are successful in graduate and law school placements.

The Political Science program provides a lot of breadth in coverage through their curriculum (and related curriculum in other areas). This is a strength of the program, but with reductions in the number of majors, the program needs to be aware of the number of upper level classes offered in any given semester. There are possibilities that too many choices will cause low-enrolled classes at the upper level.

In summary, Political Science is a strong program that prepares students to be “engaged and contributing citizens.” Their major numbers have decreased since the last review, but this may turn around with the stabilization of faculty. The program provides an important service to general education as well as a number of interdisciplinary programs on campus. Its students praise the program and its faculty. The faculty are very active in scholarship and very engaged with improving learning in the classroom. In addition, the faculty are very involved in both institutional and community service activities that are important for the institution.

Cc: Mimi Kubsch, Academic Affairs Council  
Clif Ganyard, Associate Provost