MEMO

To: Scott Furlong, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences
From: Christine Style, chair of Academic Affairs Council
Date: 27 May 2010
RE: AAC Political Science Program Self-Study Report

The Academic Affairs Council met on 12 May 2010 to discuss the Political Science Program self-study report written by Michael Kraft and dated 2 February 2010. Political Science faculty present at this meeting were Prof. Katia Levintova and Denise Scheberle. AAC members present were: Woo Jeon, Kaoime Malloy, and Christine Style.

Overview

Political Science is a disciplinary program that studies government, public problems and political processes and policies. The Political Science program has a strong core mission related to its guiding principles involved with preparing “engaged and contributing citizens.” Political Science is the study of political behavior, government institutions, policy making processes, public policies and their implementation, political values in local, state, national and cross-national and international settings.

The Political Science program offers a major and a minor. The Political Science major has 9-10 credits of supporting course requirements and 24 credits of upper level course requirements. This prepares the student broadly for continued work in one of the sub-fields. The Political Science minor has 6 credits required at the lower level and 12 credits required at the upper level, all from a pick-from list. The number of declared majors has stayed consistent between 2004 (98) and 2008 (102) as has the number of minors (34). The average class size has grown from 46.5 in 2004 to 54.1 in 2008. There was an increase in the number of students who graduated with a major in PS from 12 in 2004 to 28 in 2008 and the number of minors from 7 in 2004 to 19 in 2008. 2.5 faculty teach for the PS program if interdisciplinary teaching schedules and administrative releases are taken into consideration (a graph is shown later in the review).

The Political Science major needs to select an interdisciplinary minor and most often that minor is Public Administration, Urban & Regional Studies, social Change & Development, or Business Administration.

Program Strengths and Areas in Need of Attention

The Political Science major curriculum includes four of the traditional subfields: Political Theory, American Government and Public Policy, International Relations and Comparative Politics. The strongest sub area at UW-Green Bay is American Government mostly due to the offerings within Public and Environmental Affairs curriculum. Courses are taught in the traditional manner with some summer courses taught fully on-line. D2L is used my most of the faculty to support traditional learning. The AAC asked if it would be realistic for more courses to be fully online and the PS faculty responded that it would not and that students are generally unenthusiastic about online courses. The one exception is their teaching for Adult Degree, where most work is online.

The graduating seniors speak very highly of the Political Science curriculum and faculty. The self-study notes that the PS curriculum remains deficient in the four sub fields and various reasons are given: inability to offer key courses in each subfield (i.e. American Presidency 310) due to inadequate staffing to meet student demand. Faculty sabbaticals often mean cancelling courses. If more lower-level courses are offered to meet the demand than the upper level courses would suffer. Political Science has done its best to maintain a quality program with insufficient faculty. Ad Hoc faculty have been used throughout the years successfully only due to finding some high quality teachers who have stayed with the program over a period of time.
Many courses within Political Science meet other university needs within the general education areas of Social Sciences and World Culture as well as the writing emphasis requirements. If fact 100% of the lower-level PS course offerings are also general education courses and about 12% of the upper-level courses

PS compliments and augments the programs in Public and Environmental Affairs, Social Change and Development and Social Change and Development and to some degree Urban and Regional Studies. Plus the Global Studies minor. Three faculty members contribute to graduate programs

The AAC spent some time understanding the actual FTE used to offer the Political Science major and minor and asked the PS chair to fill in the following table. The AAC sees a great need for new faculty in PS for the program to do more than “get by.” Many faculty offer independent studies and oversee a large number of internships without receiving any course release for this important service. The program is currently heavily dependent upon adjunct teaching and this is not sustainable and has been the case for many years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty name</th>
<th># of courses/load inside the pc curriculum per year*</th>
<th># of courses/load outside of pc curriculum per year*</th>
<th>Fulltime or Adjunct</th>
<th>Faculty from other areas who teach for the pc curriculum per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Kraft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>fulltime</td>
<td>None except for ad hoc faculty for which we have no continuing funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Scheberle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>fulltime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Furlong</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fulltime—yes, but not as a faculty member.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Everingham</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>fulltime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Dale</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>fulltime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levintova Ekaterina</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>fulltime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Rinfret</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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Prof. Kraft states that “the real FTE of the Political Science faculty is considerably less than what a list of members alone would suggest. The numbers in the table represent the number of dedicated Political Science courses taught by each member of the PS faculty. Scheberle’s teaching load is 4 per year because she serves as chair. Nearly everyone else has some administrative assignment that results in a six-course per year teaching load.

The same point applies to faculty from other curricular areas who teach Political Science courses if by this we mean “regular” Political Science courses. There are none. However, we do rely on ad hoc faculty in PEA to offer some courses that we accept as Political Science credit for majors, such as Admin. Law 314. And we do count a small number of SCD, URS, History, and Philosophy courses as acceptable for the major (not the minor) because it is a way to increase the diversity of our curriculum.”
PS has limited their learning outcomes to a modest number and they assess student learning for the core courses each semester via student achievement on a major writing project. PS no longer conducts surveys of graduating seniors since this is done elsewhere. PS finds that this assessment process is sufficient since they also evaluate students in our individual courses on many other bases.

PS organizes an Open House event in the fall to welcome and offer an overview of the PS program and hosts a Celebration event at the end of the spring semester to talk to students about what they have accomplished. The AAC applauds these events and it represents the care and respect PS faculty have for their students and potential students. PS also provides many opportunities for students to get valuable internship experience working with campaigns, projects and state and national representatives. Due to the high number of declared majors in the PS program an internship can not be required, though program advisors try to place as many as possible in internship as they find that experience to be extremely valuable for the student. Most of the internship management is done in addition to the full teaching load and without some kind of compensation.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

PS is a fine and well-thought program that does the best it can given the need for new faculty. The PS program produces engaged global citizens. The faculty offer their best to the students and are excellent role models. The administration needs to acknowledge and offer a course release process for those faculty overseeing a large number of internships.

The AAC wants to effectively communicate that the Political Science resources are split between other disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs and that they are significantly understaffed with a high faculty to student ratio.

CC: Michael Kraft, AAC members, Tim Sewall