

California State University, East Bay

DESIGNATION CODE: 2008-09 CAPR 44

DATE SUBMITTED: May 21, 2009

TO: Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Review (CAPR)

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review for Political Science

PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION

REQUESTED: Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of Political Science and Approval of the Continuation of the Program without Modification

Executive Summary

The program in Political Science has made significant progress since the last five year report. The hire of three faculty members has placed the department in a position to achieve several of the goals outlined in the prior review. Based on the current report, the program has successfully implemented assessment of student learning outcomes (SLOs), developed new strategies for advising students, increased course offerings and, most notably, established a student run journal, *East Bay Politica*. All of these accomplishments ensure the quality of the Political Science Program.

CAPR Recommendation for Continuation of the Program

CAPR recommends the continuation of the BA in Political Science. The date of the next Five-Year Review for this program is 2013-2014.

1. BACKGROUND

Overview description of the program

Political Science offers a BA degree with three tracks: Pre-law, Public Affairs and Administration and General. The department encourages student involvement in local and national politics. Faculty and students have developed several mechanisms for achieving this goal. For example, an internship program, directed by Dr. Kim Geron, places approximately 25 students each year in governmental offices, with elected officials and with community organizations. The department administers scholarships that help students pursue internships in Sacramento and Washington. Finally, students are linked to community-based politics through active student clubs such as the Model U.N. and Political Science Club.

The Political Science Program is served by seven regular faculty members and one Administrative Assistant.

1.2 Overview of the documents submitted to CAPR

- A self-study
- A five-year plan
- Annual reports to CAPR (2007 and 2008)
- Report of the outside review
- Program response to the outside reviewer's report

2. Five-Year Program Review/Self-Study

Summary of Specific areas of the Self-Study

Overview of Program Achievements

There have been significant changes since the last five year review. Major changes include:

- The addition of new faculty members
- The implementation of new advising strategies
- Development and implementation of an exit survey
- Development and implementation of SLO assessment
- Department review of curriculum
- New course offerings
- Founding of a student journal

Curriculum and Student Learning

- The department lists about 50 upper division courses in the current CSUEB Catalog.
- The department continues to be active in the Cluster Program.
- The department continues to offer lower division GE courses.

- Since the last review, faculty members developed two new courses in minority politics. One course focuses on African Americans and the other on Asian Americans.
- Since the last review the department initiated a plan to develop a new option in applied politics and a plan to strengthen course offerings in Asian politics. However, the lack of resources has forced the department to put these plans on hold.
- Assessment is a strong component of the program. Since the last review, a comprehensive (50 item) exit survey that assesses student experiences with and views on curriculum, advising and department climate was developed and implemented. SLO rubrics were developed and an assessment of learning outcomes was conducted at two different points in time. Assessment instruments were implemented in POSC 3030 and in the Senior Seminar, POSC 4910.
- Assessment spurred program improvements. For instance, POSC 3030 was redesigned in 2007 in response to student comments on the exit survey.

Students, Advising and Retention

- The period from 2004 to 2007 shows a slight decrease in the number of majors. The Department Chair attributes this to the shortage of faculty. (At one point in time, only one regular faculty member was in residence.) An increase in majors is expected with the addition of new faculty members and, subsequently, improvement in course offerings.
- Available data show that there were 177 majors in 2007.
- In 2007, the student faculty ratio was 17.81 (for tenure track faculty) and 17.81 for lecturers.
- In response to suggestions made by the last outside reviewer, the following changes to advising were implemented: 1) each student is mailed an advising brochure, 2) a listserv is used for advising updates, and 3) an advisor is available during evening hours.

Faculty

- Professors Michelson, Bergman, and Ortuoste were hired since the last review and these hires bring the number of full-time tenure and tenure-track faculty to seven. Three of the four senior members of the faculty have reassigned time for administrative duties.
- All members of the faculty are extremely active in scholarly activities. CV's reflect that each faculty member has several current publications and conference presentations.

Requirements

- The Program meets the 180 unit limit.

Summary of Supporting Data

California State University East Bay

Political Science

A. Students	Fall Quarter				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1. Undergraduate	181	192	187	177	173
2. Graduate	1	2	3	2	4
3. Total Number of Majors (headcount)	182	194	190	179	177
4. Term FTES Generated (SFR report)	186.47	195.2	180.53	163.47	160.8
B. Degrees Awarded	College Years				
	2002-03	2003-2004	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1. Undergraduate	39	42	59	35	59
2. Graduate	0	0	0	0	0
3. Total	39	42	59	35	59
c. Faculty	Fall Quarter				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Tenured/Track Headcount					
1. Full time	5	5	5	4	4
2. Part time	1	0	1	1	1
3. Total Tenure Track	6	5	6	5	5
Lecturer Headcount					
1. Full-Time	0	1	1	1	1
2. Part-Time	3	2	5	4	7
3. Total Non-Tenure Track	3	3	6	5	8
4. Grand Total All Faculty	9	8	12	10	13
Instructional FTE Faculty					
1. Tenured/Track	5.7	5.0	5.7	4.7	4.3
2. Lecturer	1.9	2.6	3.7	3.4	4.2
3. Total Instructional FTEF	7.5	7.6	9.3	8.1	8.5
Lecturer Teaching					
1. % Lecturer/Total Instructional FT	25.30%	34.2	40%	42%	49.40%
2. FTES Taught by lecturer	63.73	104	81.87	82.67	102.67
3. % FTES Lecture/FTES Generated	34.20%	53.20%	45.30%	50.60%	64.90%
Student Faculty Ratios	Fall Quarter				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1. Tenure Track	29.58	40.2	30.75	28.76	17.81
2. Lecturer	29.84	40.2	30.75	28.76	17.81
3. SFR By Level (All Faculty)	29.67	29.16	25.54	21.18	16.92
4. Lower Division	39.16	39.34	32.14	29.75	19.18
5. Upper Division	26.32	25.57	23.07	18.32	16.38
6. Graduate	0	0	0	0	0
7. Number of Sections Offered	21	17	20	20	20
8. Average Section size	32.7	42.5	33.6	30.4	29.4

CAPR Table 1

California State University, East Bay

OVERALL ENROLLMENT PROFILE BY DEPARTMENT

College Years 2002-03 through 2007-08

Department Political Science

		Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
CAMPUS MAJOR						
International Studies	Graduate	2	2			1
	Undergraduate	45	44	47	48	59
	TOTAL	47	46	47	48	60
Political Science	Graduate	1	2	3	2	4
	Undergraduate	181	192	187	177	173
	TOTAL	182	194	190	179	177
Total	Graduate	3	4	3	2	5
	Undergraduate	226	236	234	225	232
	TOTAL	229	240	237	227	237

CAPR Table 2

California State University, East Bay

OVERALL DEGREES CONFERRED PROFILE BY MAJOR

College Years 2001-02 through 2006-07

Political Science

		CY02-03	CY03-04	CY04-05	CY05-06	CY06-07	CY07-08
pgm_major							
International Studies	Baccalaureate	11	12	12	11	6	2
	TOTAL	11	12	12	11	6	2
Political Science	Baccalaureate	39	42	59	35	59	13
	TOTAL	39	42	59	35	59	13
Department Total	Baccalaureate	50	54	71	46	65	15
	TOTAL	50	54	71	46	65	15

3. **Outside Reviewers Report and the Department's Response**

Outside Reviewer's Report

Dr. Greg Andranovich, Professor of Political Science at CSU, Los Angeles visited the campus on March 2, 2009. The reviewer noted the following:

Program Strengths

- A broad range of innovative course offerings
- Promising new directions in course development
- The student journal
- Program options
- Strides in advising
- New faculty hires
- Scholarly activities

Key Concerns & Recommendations

Resources:

- The reviewer noted a need for new faculty hires to staff existing courses and to develop new program options. As the reviewer stated, "...the number and range of courses suggests a larger Department Faculty the nucleus of seven full-time tenured and tenure track faculty."
- The reviewer recommends against enrollment growth in the absence of new hires.
- The reviewer noted a need for more office space.
- The reviewer noted the need for additional office staff. There is a need to keep the front office open year round.

Curriculum, Advising and Assessment:

While the reviewer noted improvements in advising and assessment, he made the following recommendations as ways to further gains in these areas:

- Re-visit and revise POSC 3030
- Standardize advising forms across different options
- Implement additional advising mechanisms (e.g., post course schedules for the upcoming year outside of the office and develop an advising module)
- Revise the SLOs
- Re-visit the mission statement to be sure that reflects new hires and, consequently, new directions

The outside reviewer concluded by noting that the department is in an "improved position as it looks toward the next five years."

Response to Outside Reviewers Report

The faculty concurs with the reviewers concern that limited resources will impede the department's capacity to grow enrollment and develop new options. In their response to the

reviewer the faculty indicated that, “There is a continuing disconnect between the productivity of the Department and its inability to gain resources.” Given that summer courses are offered, members of the faculty find the closure of the front office during summer months to be especially troubling. The need to hire new tenure-track faculty is also of great concern. Adequate staffing of the options and the internship and the capacity to continue offering a range of courses that will attract students to CSUEB can only occur with additional resources.

In line with the reviewer’s comments, faculty will continue to review and clarify the advising process. Members of the faculty indicated that they are striving to continue to improve advising but this is difficult given the lack of resources. In spite of scant resources, the department has already responded to and implemented several of the outside reviewer’s recommendations. For instance, advising forms are being revised so that they align across options and e-mail is being used as an advising tool.

4. Program’s Five-Year Strategic Plan

The plan for the coming years is focused on maintaining the improvements made over the past five years. The Department hopes to achieve the following:

- Continue to teach many students on limited resources
- Avoid, if possible, losing ground and moving back to a cafeteria approach to course offerings
- Settle new hires into a long and productive relationship with the Department and University
- Visit the possibility of offering online and hybrid courses
- Secure a new faculty hire
- Continue to improve advising

5. CAPR Analysis of the Program’s Five-Year Review

The program in the Department of Political Science has submitted a solid five-year review report. The department has made strides in curriculum development, advising and assessment. The addition of new faculty has energized the program and is taking the program in exciting new directions. The curriculum is of high quality and backed by assessment. The department has a vision for future development. Below are key recommendations for the program as it moves forward:

- There is a need to staff the office year-round if the program is to continue offering courses over the summer.
- A tenure-track faculty hire is needed in order to keep pace with and fulfill goals for new directions.
- More space is needed for faculty and for student activities.
- There is a need for additional resources to support the internship (the faculty member who directs the internship is not assigned any release time for this duty) and the production of the student journal.

- In line with the outside reviewer's recommendation, the department plans to continue its work on assessment. CAPR recognizes that excellent achievements have been made in this area and supports continued work as planned by the department.

CAPR Recommendation for Continuation of the Program

CAPR recommends the continuation of the BA in Political Science. The date of the next Five-Year Review is 2013-2014.