

***Institutional Effectiveness Report
Academic Year 2013-14
Political Science Program***

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I. Political Science Program Goals

A. Mission Statement

The political science program provides instruction to enable all students to complete as part of their general education requirement an introductory-level course in political science that includes material dealing with the United States Constitution and Federalist Papers. Students may earn a major, minor, or collateral in political science. The program offers its majors a broad understanding of political phenomena, including political institutions, political processes, political behavior, political thought patterns, and contemporary political issues. The course of study for the major prescribes a set of core courses in the discipline's traditional sub-fields of American government, comparative politics, international relations, political philosophy, and political methodology. Students elect the remainder of their primary work from a range of course offerings pertaining to foreign and /or domestic American government and politics. The flexibility of the curriculum permits students to pursue a program of courses tailored to their individual interests and career goals. Graduates with a major in political science receive the broad training and develop the general competence in the discipline required to equip them for successful careers in politics, the military, public service and quasi-public agencies, commerce and industry, teaching, and other occupations for which preparation in the field is desirable, or to undertake postgraduate professional study in political science, public administration, or related areas, such as law.

B. Ongoing Objectives

1. Political Science majors will demonstrate knowledge of the terms, concepts, methods, and theories from each of the major subfields of political science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Methods, and Political Theory).
2. Political Science graduates will be prepared to successfully pursue employment in a variety of fields in the private sector, government, or public service.
3. Political Science graduates will be prepared to enter graduate programs in political science, international relations, public policy, or law.
4. Each semester Political Science faculty will offer courses representing the diversity of interests in the discipline.
5. Support teaching, research, and service activities to continue to provide high-quality instruction by program faculty and the professional development of political science majors.

C. Assessment Tools

1. As part of an ongoing process to increase the quality of department activities, the Political Science program modified its assessment tools for 2013-14. Evaluation of faculty teaching, research, and service activity was expanded and sharpened.
2. The program continued to assess student learning via an internal exam written by program faculty. Beginning in the Spring of 2012, a study guide to help students prepare

for the internal exam was provided to the students one week before the administration of the exam. For the Spring 2012 exam, students were given 60 questions and were asked to answer 50 of their choice. Beginning in Spring 2013, the study guide was revised and expanded to ensure greater internal validity in the assessment process. The exam for Spring 2013 was also revised, with students given 50 questions with no choice of questions. For Spring 2014 the political science program exit exam will continue the Spring 2013 methodology.

3. The Political Science program continues to administer an exit survey for political science majors. The exit survey is used by program faculty to consider possible changes to the curriculum, student advising, and other activities.

II. Faculty Activities

A. Political Science Faculty Profile

There are seven full-time faculty members in the Political Science program, four of whom are tenured, two are tenure-track, and one is an instructor. All program faculty members have terminal degrees in their field of study. Three of them have over a decade of teaching experience at FMU, one of whom has over 20 years of teaching experience at FMU.

B. Travel awards, REAL grants, summer research fellowships, and other internal funding

Four faculty members received a variety of grants from FMU sources totaling \$28,717. Four faculty members received Professional Development money in excess of \$9,766, which was used in a variety of ways. One faculty member used over \$2,000 in Professional Development funds to purchase STATA 13 and hire a student Research Assistant for a research project that will begin this summer. Several faculty members used their Professional Development funds to travel to academic conferences. Two faculty members received REAL grants for over \$11,600. Political science program REAL grants funded travel to Europe and New York City for 10 students. One faculty member led a joint REAL grant application process with the departments of Mass Communication, Physics, and History for a trip to Washington DC that resulted in an award totaling \$11,238, which funded the participation of 20 FMU students in the Washington program. Additional funding from the McNair Center and the Office of the Provost was also obtained for the Washington trip. One faculty member received a Summer Research Fellowship for \$4,000 that will be used to study the European Union Parliament elections this summer.

C. External grants

One faculty member received \$2,000 of support from the EU Center at the University of Illinois and the Artinian Travel Award (\$250) to subsidize travel to the Southern Political Science Association meeting.

D. Student trips and clubs

Political Science faculty were active in a variety of student clubs and trips this academic year. Faculty advised and led the FMU Model United Nations club in competition in New York City, chaperoned the Fall FMU Honors trip to New York, served as President of the FMU chapter of

Pi Sigma Alpha, chaperoned the McNair Scholars Spring Break Trip to Germany and France, and planned and supervised student participation in the Washington Program.

E. New courses offered

The department offered several new courses this past year. One faculty member taught HNRS 397 (Honors Colloquium): Justice, Power, and Gender in Classical Athens, while another faculty member offered Political Science 101, Introduction to American Politics as an online course for the first time to area high school students for college credit.

F. Publications and other research activity

Two members of the department received book contracts this year from Oxford University Press and the University of Kansas Press. One faculty member published an article in the *Journal of Common Market Studies*. Another faculty member submitted three articles for publication and received invitations to revise and resubmit from the journals *Terrorism and Political Violence* and *Armed Forces and Society*. One faculty member was on sabbatical conducting research on American foreign policy.

G. Conference participation

Faculty members presented papers and served as panel chairs and discussants at a variety of conferences and symposia, including the EU Center of Excellence Symposium on Legislative Politics in the European Union at the University of Illinois, “What’s Next South Carolina?” seminar sponsored by the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology, EU Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh, and the annual meetings of the International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, European Political Science Association, and the South Carolina Political Science Association.

H. Administrative leadership

One faculty member served as Director of the McNair Center for Research and Service.

I. Faculty governance activity

Program faculty participated in many aspects of shared governance, particularly when the size of the department is considered. Faculty members served on 7 different FMU governance committees, chairing three of them. Three faculty members served as Chairs of the Grade Appeals Committee, and the Institutional Effectiveness Committee. Department faculty served in the Faculty Senate, on the College of Liberal Arts Election Committee, Honors Committee, International Programs Committee, Library Committee, and Professional Development Committee. In the Spring, one faculty member was elected to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Grievance Committee.

J. Other professional service

A faculty member was elected President of the FMU chapter of American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and also serves as the Chair of the Humanities and Social Science

Symposium Five faculty members also participated in FMU Undergraduate Scholarship interviews.

K. Alumni Outreach

As part of a new program effort to improve postgraduate employment and other professional outcomes, under the direction of the department Chair an undergraduate student was hired to support program activities. One of her duties was to attempt to locate and obtain information concerning 1,200 FMU political science alumni, with particularly attention to employment history. The Chair also hosted the first Political Science Alumni Dinner on 23 September at Za's Brick Oven Pizzeria in Columbia. In addition, the Chair will host the FMU Political Science Alumni Reception at Tortilla Coast in Washington, DC on 20 May.

L. Invited Speakers

The Political Science program marked Constitution Day by inviting several federal and state luminaries to meet with students and faculty. Participants included Thomas E. Rogers III, U.S. Magistrate Judge; Kelvin Washington, U.S. Marshal for the District of South Carolina; Celia Urquhart, Pee Dee Regional Director for U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham; Kenny Barnes from the office of U.S. Representative Jim Clyburn; and John Sweeney ('09), the regional representative for U.S. Representative Tom Rice. Community Relations Commander Anson Shells gave a lecture in Political Science 330, Perspectives on Policing. On 26 February, Isabel DiSculio, Assistant Dean of Admissions for Drexel University Law School, delivered a presentation at the Law School Interest Meeting.

III. Faculty Evaluation

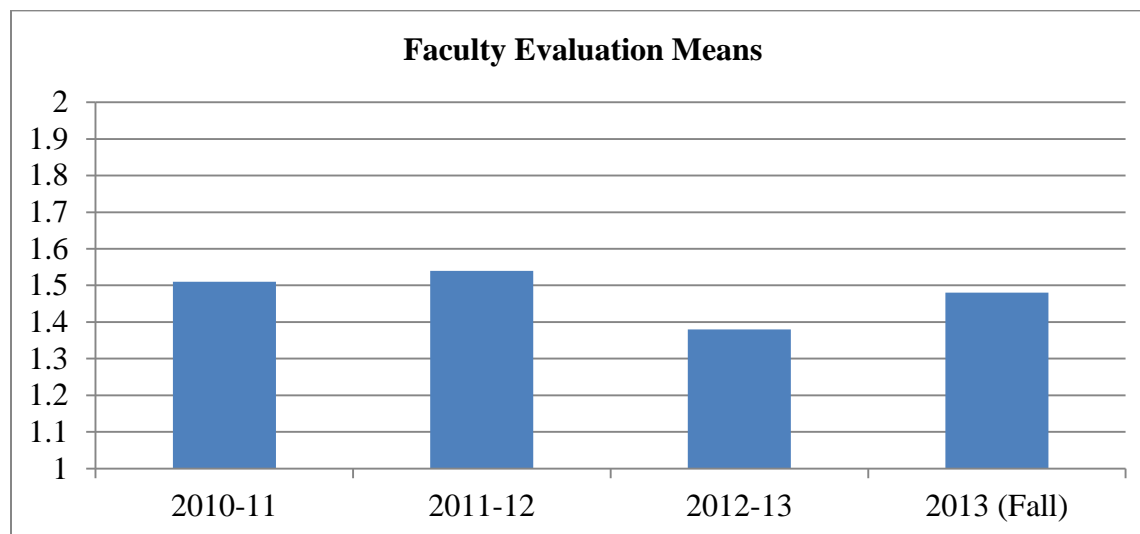
A. Mean Scores for I7, "Overall Quality of Instruction"

TERM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fall 2010	1.19	1.61	1.64	1.72	1.73	1.90	--
Spring 2011	1.06	1.26	1.50	1.59	1.60	1.75	2.11
Fall 2011	1.19	1.42	1.46	1.54	1.56	1.58	2.21
Spring 2012	1.45	1.54	1.62	1.68	1.74	2.06	--
Fall 2012	1.10	1.29	1.39	1.48	1.51	1.70	1.92
Spring 2013	1.21	1.27	1.28	1.48	1.60	1.72	1.73
Fall 2013	1.05	1.37	1.40	1.53	1.62	1.68	1.71

Note: Ordinal ranking only—heading numbers do not correspond with individual faculty members. Omitted rankings reflect faculty sabbaticals and program personnel turnover.

Mean, 2010-11: 1.51 SD=.276
 Mean, 2011-12: 1.54 SD=.258
 Mean, 2012-13: 1.38 SD=.227
 Mean, Fall 2013: 1.48 SD=.213

B. Department Means by School Year



Ordinal scale of 1-4, with 1 indicating “Excellent” and 4 indicating “Poor” (5 is “Cannot Rate”)

B. Political Science Exit Survey, 2013-14

To what extent has the political science program prepared you to...	N	Mean	SD
Q 1.1 Understand Political Science as a science of political behavior	10	1.7	1.252
Q 1.2 Understand and appreciate how the scientific method can be utilized to study politics	10	2.00	1.333
Q 1.3 Understand the major theories and issues of Political Science	10	1.80	1.229
Q 1.4 Understand the political institutions and processes of the American political system	10	1.50	1.269
Q 1.5 Appreciate your role as a citizen in the American political system	10	1.40	1.265
Q 1.6 Understand the political processes of other countries, regions, and the international system	10	2.10	1.197
Q 1.7 Engage in critical thinking about political issues	10	1.70	1.337
Q 1.8 Become aware of career options for political science majors	10	2.30	1.567

Ordinal scale, 1=“well prepared” 2=“somewhat prepared” 3=“uncertain/neutral” 4=“somewhat unprepared” and 5=“unprepared”

Perceptions of program quality	N	Mean	SD
Q 2.1 Availability of course offerings	10	2.6	1.506
Q 2.2 Extent to which class objectives were specified on the syllabus in your courses	10	1.70	1.337
Q 2.3 Extent to which class objectives were met in your courses	10	1.80	1.229
Q 2.4 Overall quality of the instructional methods used in the classroom including lectures, demonstrations, etc.	10	1.90	1.287
Q 2.5 Overall quality of the use of instructional technology in the classroom	10	1.70	1.252
Q 2.6 Overall fairness of grading in your political science courses	10	1.70	1.337
Q 2.7 Overall quality of your political science courses	10	1.70	1.337

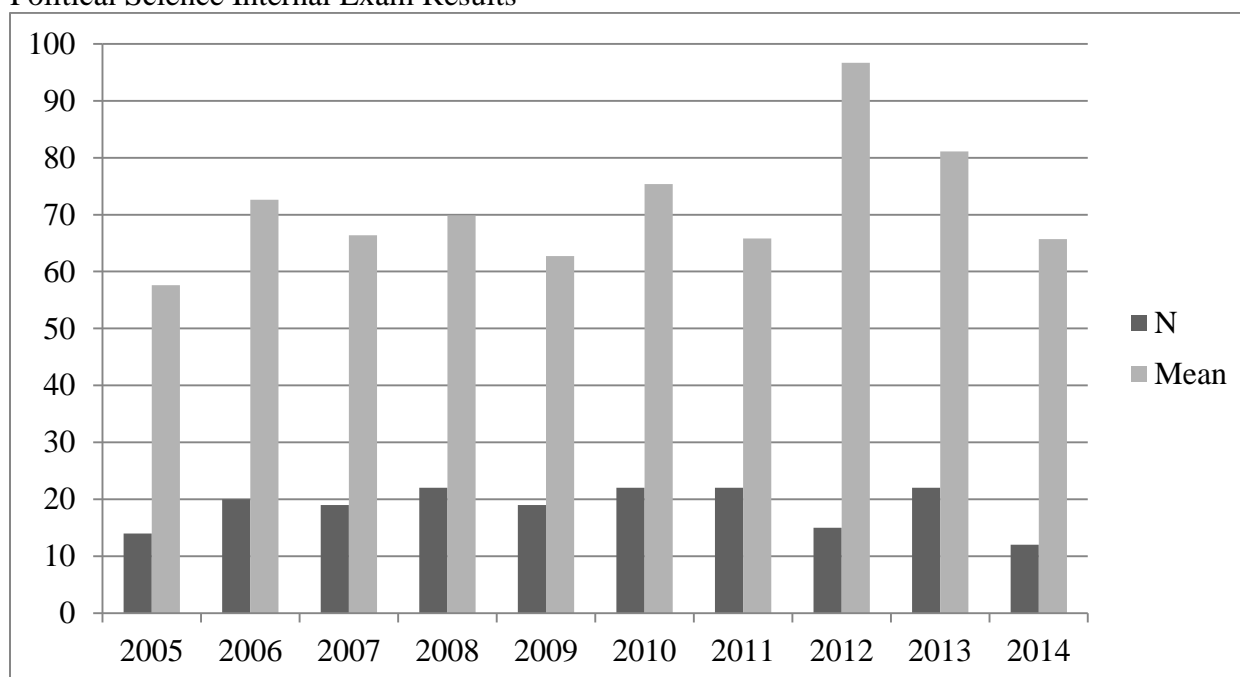
1=“good” 2=“somewhat good” 3=“uncertain/neutral” 4=“somewhat poor” and 5=“poor”

Perceptions of faculty performance	N	Mean	SD
Q 3.1 Overall knowledge of subject matter of faculty	10	1.80	1.317
Q 3.2 Overall conduct of courses by faculty	10	1.70	1.337
Q 3.3 Treatment of students in the classroom by faculty	10	1.60	1.350
Q 3.4 Approachability and availability of faculty	10	1.70	1.337
Q 3.5 Advising by faculty	10	1.60	1.265

1="good" 2="somewhat good" 3="uncertain/neutral" 4="somewhat poor" and 5="poor"

IV. Assessment of Political Science Student Learning Outcomes

Political Science Internal Exam Results



Note: in 2012, the department changed its method of evaluation to better reflect the flexibility of its curriculum. Students meet degree goals by taking a distribution of courses drawn from the different subfields. Prior to 2012, the Internal Exam did not take this into account.

V. Department Multi-Year Plan

<i>Three Year Goals (2013-16)</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
1. Hire a tenure track faculty member to teach courses related to the Criminal Justice track	Completed
2. Improve the quality of career advising and networking opportunities for students by creating a department alumni database	Ongoing
3. Hire a part-time student assistant to support a variety of department activities	Completed
4. Establish department goals for three and six year intervals	Ongoing