

**Texas A&M International University
Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)
for Academic Programs**

Program: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Assessment Period Covered: January 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010

Program Coordinator (Preparer of Report) Dr. James A Norris

List Other Program Faculty:

Dr Chris Lawrence
Mark Menaldo

Reviewed by Chair: Name _____ Date _____

Reviewed by Dean: Name _____ Date _____

The Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review for Academic Programs is directed at Goal 1: Academics of the Texas A&M International University 2006-2010 Strategic Plan:

Develop, maintain, assess, and improve academic programs, administrative/educational support services and student services, to admit, retain, and graduate students who achieve established learning outcomes designed to prepare them for success in their chosen careers.

Institutional Mission

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

Academic Program Mission

The Department of Social Sciences enjoys a broad mission in teaching, research, creative activities, and service to our international community.

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science is a traditional liberal arts degree designed to provide a sound undergraduate education that helps prepare graduates to think critically and constructively about the world, to be active and concerned citizens, and for a wide range of careers relating to teaching, management, government, politics, and the law. Many of our students intend to continue their education to earn either a Master's degree or a law degree. Accordingly, the degree plan seeks to provide students with a broad, integrated knowledge of all the major subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, American government and politics, comparative politics, and international relations. In addition, the degree plan emphasizes analytic and writing

skills as these are critical to success in education beyond the bachelor's degree. Some students earning this degree will likely become teachers, but this degree itself is not intended to stand alone as a teacher preparation degree, since the state of Texas' most closely related teaching specialization, Social Studies, is far broader than just Political Science.

Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented

In the last cycle none of the outcomes were properly accessed, and no data were collected, or at least the data have been lost. These data are collected in the capstone course each Spring semester. The faculty member teaching the capstone course this time left TAMIU suddenly without notice and did not leave us with any data what-so-ever. We do not know if he collected these data or not, because ever since he was told his position was not to be renewed last April, which is the very month that most of the data are collected, he passively refused to communicate. The faculty failed to anticipate this result.

Selected list of program-level intended student learning outcomes *(It is recommended that programs rotate through their entire set of outcomes over a multi-year period. Programs may focus on one or two outcomes each year, as deemed appropriate).*

1. Students completing the Political Science program will demonstrate understand political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society. The final examination, a locally generated exam, focusing on these components, will be given to students at the end of their final semester.
2. Students completing the baccalaureate program will compare favorably in their knowledge of political science with students at other universities completing similar programs.
3. Students majoring in Political Science will, within reason, express satisfaction with the variety and frequency (or scheduling) of the Department's upper division course offerings.

Section I: Planning and Implementation

Outcome(s)

Identify the outcome(s) that will be focused upon this year.

Outcome 1. Students completing the Political Science program will demonstrate understand political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society. The final examination, a locally generated exam, focusing on these components, will be given to students at the end of their final semester.

Outcome 3. Students majoring in Political Science will, within reason, express satisfaction with the variety and frequency (or scheduling) of the Department's upper division course offerings.

Please indicate if the outcome(s) is (are) related to writing (QEP).

Methods of assessment to be used: *The explanation should identify and describe the type of assessment(s) that will be used (e.g., survey, questionnaire, observation instrument, test, rubric to evaluate performance, standardized examination, action research, interviews, etc.), who will provide the information, and how the data will be obtained.*

Outcome 1. For this outcome we will use the locally generated Exam administered during the Senior Seminar, also known as the Capstone Course.

Outcome 3. For this outcome we will administer a survey to all members of the Capstone Course.

Indicate when assessment(s) will take place

Spring Semester 2009, in May.

Criteria/Benchmark(s): *[Specify, if deemed appropriate to assess outcome(s). Criteria/ benchmark(s) may be optional, especially if qualitative measures are used for data collection.]*

Outcome 1. The average score on the examination will be at least 3 (good).

Outcome 3. Students majoring in Political Science will, within reason, express satisfaction with the variety and frequency (or scheduling) of the Department's upper division course offerings.

Section II: Analysis of Results

What were the results attained?

Describe the primary results or findings from your analysis of the information collected. This section should include an explanation of any strength(s) or weakness(es) of the program suggested by the results.

Outcome 1. 14 students took the locally generated Political Science Exam, and 13 scored Excellent (4), while only one scored Fair (2).

Outcome 3. In our survey of graduating seniors 43% disagreed that the variety of upper division courses offered was adequate to allow "on-time" (within the traditional 4-years) graduation. 43% said they had been unable to choose all the upper division PSCI courses they wanted to take in order to graduate "on-time;" 14% strongly agreed with the above. 43% said they had to use a course substitution to graduate "on time;" 7% said they had used two course substitutions. 21% said they had asked for an independent study class in order to graduate "on-time."

What were the conclusions reached?

Should include a brief description of the procedure used for reaching the conclusion(s) based on the evidence collected and describe the process used to disseminate the information to other individuals. For example, if the discussion took place during the annual spring retreat, include a summary from those deliberations using the Meeting Minutes template found on the Project Integrate web page at <http://www.tamtu.edu/integrate/docs/Minutes-Template.doc>. Once completed, submit the minutes to assessment@tamtu.edu.

No changes are anticipated based upon outcome 1 results, since, on the whole, the students met our standards. The vast majority of the students (13 out of 14, 93%) met or exceeded our expectations for the locally-generated exam. Based upon the results on outcome 3 the faculty

hope to stop the use of course substitution and independent study. The political science faculty recommend that we offer at least two more upper division courses per semester and repeat the more popular courses more often than biannually. However, it is clear that we will not be able to do this unless we hire more political science faculty.

Describe the action plan formulated. (The plan may be multi-year in nature.)

Based on the conclusion(s), describe the action plan to be implemented to improve or maintain student learning, including a timeline for implementation.

Hire at least one more full-time, not an administrator nominally associated with the discipline, Political Science faculty member as soon as possible. Alternatively, and we must emphasize we are very reluctant to suggest this alternative, allow the department to use more adjunct faculty to teach the lower-division PSCI 2305 and PSCI 2306 courses.

Section III: Resources

Resource(s) to implement action plan:

Describe the resources that will be needed to implement the action plan. Also indicate if the resources are currently available, or if additional funds will be needed to obtain these resources.

Funding

- New Resources Required: New Faculty Line
- Reallocation of current funds

Physical

- New or reallocated space

Other

- Primarily faculty/staff time
- University/rule procedure change only

Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)

There is no practical substitute for faculty.

Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:

Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation):

These are perennial areas for concern. Moreover, the university has grown with our student population more than double that of a decade ago, yet we still have the same number of political science faculty as ten years ago.

New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):

Enter text here

Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification):

Enter text here

Date Completed: 11 Feb 2010

Submit completed form to integrate@tamiu.edu.

Updated 09/03/2009