

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Political Science (BA, BS, BSE) Majors and Minors, 2021-2022

Date: 3/11/2022

In Attendance: Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Frank Goza (L&S); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Jolly Emrey; Political Science Department members Louis Fucilla and Xia Li Lollar; Audit & Review Team Chair Tom Klubertanz; Audit & Review team member Leda Kanellakou.

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

Klubertanz shared general comments from the review team:

- a) Department has strong faculty commitment to student engagement and success, as demonstrated by strong record of undergraduate research and efforts to place students in internships.
- b) Review team was impressed by projects related to curriculum and program advancement, such as the Research Methods course assessment and analysis.
- c) The Department's curriculum serves students well. Minor reaches students from across the University. This speaks to the smart planning of a flexible curriculum. Also, program makes great contributions to general education curriculum and cross-listed courses.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Please provide an overview of the various tracks offered to students within the Political Science major. Are the various emphasis offerings clear to students?

Emrey shared that the department is updating their website so that it will be easier for students to learn about Political Science and Legal Studies. They also will share the value of the majors/minors with students in introductory courses, hoping to gain recruits. Alumni who are either recently graduated or who have excelled in their field may be recruited to help current and perspective students better understand career options. The department is considering a name change to better reflect curriculum and majors. Finally, Emrey expressed appreciation for the return of learning communities as a curricular option.

2 – It is clear from the self-study that assessment work is happening in the program. The review team discussed the challenges the program may be facing related to assessing student learning. Does the program have a clear plan to assess student learning in both majors?

There was praise for assessment activities done so far and a discussion of a more integrated assessment plan and schedule. Chenoweth emphasized that assessment activities are most embraced when

meaningful and constructive, not just done to fulfil a requirement. Goza asked about assessment data being collected from Writing in Political Science (POLISCI 302), leading to a brief discussion about getting assessment data from later in students' progression through the curriculum.

3 – There is a lot of work associated with managing these programs (Political Science and Legal Studies). Do faculty and staff in the program share common goals related to advancing the program? How is this work distributed among faculty and staff in the program?

Emrey expressed gratitude for efforts by departmental colleagues to advance the program. There was a brief discussion about how the self-study was assembled. There was a separate discussion of variation in enrollments and workload among department members--issues common to all departments.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

The program provided two assessment plans for Political Science and Legal Studies. These plans included SLOs, but were incomplete, particularly in the areas of documenting student progress towards SLOs, timeline, and how the information is used for program reflection/improvement. Use the University Assessment Plan template as a reference when completing assessment plans. **Please see section V. Assessment of Student Learning for a more detailed evaluation.

Recommended Action #2

Please provide a table or outline with long-term goals (over a 3-5-year period) and resources needed to accomplish those goals. **Please see section III. Program Goals and Accomplishments for a more detailed evaluation.

Recommended Result:

Continuation with minor concerns

Next Self-Study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2027 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2027

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.