

Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Academic Annual Report

Department of Political Science

Year in Review

Accomplishments

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year that will contribute to this effort? [Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.]

1) Student and Faculty-Student Collaborative Research. One major area of accomplishment is our rapidly growing student research program, which has linked students and faculty together in dynamic research partnerships at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It is noteworthy that members of the department (Fredericks, McAtee) have been awarded undergraduate and graduate research mentoring fellowships by the Alliance for Excellence, Engagement, and Experience in support of collaborative faculty-student research, and another received a Promising Scholar award for a collaborative project (Chambers). Political Science also completed the first year of its signature student research program: its nationally-distinctive Democracy and World Politics Research Experience for Undergraduates program, which is supported by a National Science Foundation grant. One of only two such Political Science research programs in the country, the Political Science REU involves 4 faculty mentors, a graduate student mentor, and visiting scholars who work with 12 undergraduate students from ISU and other universities across the country. The first summer program was held in 2005, with great success, and we have selected the 12 students for the 2006 program. One reviewer of our program wrote the following: "Your program gets it right....you will produce graduates ready to do advanced research and prepared for doctoral study, preparation equal to or superior to that received at Big Ten and Ivy League schools." 2) Program Growth. All the programs in Political Science have experienced substantial growth in recent years, at a time when university enrollments have been decreasing. This past year was no exception, as our Prioritization Reports document. 3) Internships. Political Science has continued its expansion of a high-quality internship program. We place undergraduate and graduate students in a variety of settings to enhance their learning and contribute to their professional development. Political Science has been successful in placing interns in positions providing valuable experiences, including the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives, U.S. Congress, courts and law offices, Terre Haute mayor's office, and many others. In 2003-2004, the department decided to accelerate its efforts and seek external funds to support a more aggressive approach. Consequently, we participated in the preparation of the ISU "Focus Indiana" grant. With major funding from the Lilly Foundation, Political Science has become a leading pilot program in the Focus Indiana grant, utilizing its grant funds to support students in a variety of internships at the local and state levels. We placed our first Focus Indiana interns in the fall of 2004; since that time, we have had a major expansion of this element of our program. Since it started, we have placed 20 Focus Indiana interns. 4) Faculty Scholarship and Achievement. Political Science continues its scholarly productivity. Since 2001, members of the department have published 11 books, 62 refereed articles, and 17 other publications. They have also made 102 presentations at professional conferences. In 2005 alone, Political Science faculty produced 19 refereed publications and 23 refereed presentations. In addition, department members have received 35 different awards and recognitions for their teaching, research, and service from both on and off-campus. The department is home to a President's medalist, a College of Arts

and Science Distinguished Professor, a Caleb Mills Teaching Award recipient, a Smith-Richardson fellowship-winner, a “Promising Scholar” designee, two Alliance for Excellence, Engagement and Experience (AEEE) undergraduate fellow faculty mentor award recipients, an AEEE graduate fellow faculty mentor award recipient, and numerous other teaching, research, and service awards from on and off campus. 5) Curriculum Revision. This past year, Political Science has completed major revisions to all its programs (LS, PSCI, MPA, MA). Between 2003 and 2005, the department conducted major curriculum revisions of every part of its program, building on our previous strengths to enhance student experiences, better prepare them for citizenship, and further their education and careers of a variety of types. The new programs blend core training and substantive foundations with flexible electives and integrated experiential learning opportunities, and promise close mentoring relationships between majors and faculty. In particular, in addition to streamlining and focusing our programs, the revised curriculum adds a new Independent Research course to allow students to engage in faculty-guided, independent research projects and allows up to 6 hours of internship and independent research to count towards the Political Science degree (additional hours may count toward the overall 124 hour requirement, as well as the 300/400 level hour requirement). At the graduate level, we have completed and implemented revisions of the MPA program to improve practical and skill-level training. Additionally, the MPA has moved ahead in a bold, innovative plan to build “Breeze Classrooms” to implement an “MPA Without Walls” that will allow our on-site and on-line students to participate in the same live classroom so the MPA degree can be delivered to any student anywhere. In the MA program, our revision streamlines and focuses its offerings and strengthens research training and experiences, while building in important applied professional development opportunities. Hence, faculty advisors and recruiters can point to a rich variety of student opportunities.

Research and Scholarship

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship that is focused primarily on contributions to practice and discipline-based scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

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Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

Political Science has several faculty members who have actively pursued grants, both on and off campus. These members have been successful in acquiring important resources. Overall, such efforts

need to be broadened so that more members are engaged in such activities. Moreover, faculty members in the program are leading members of a number of professional organizations, serving as officers in such associations as the Latin American Studies Association, the International Studies Association, and others. Several faculty members serve on the editorial boards of important journals as well, including Foreign Policy Analysis and Asian Security.

Teaching

We would like to highlight innovative approaches to teaching. Has your department developed any pedagogies or practices you'd like to share with us? Please describe briefly.

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Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

What have been your greatest challenges in scheduling courses to meet student needs this year? How were you able to overcome them?

Our most significant challenge was meeting the demands of growing enrollments while two faculty members were taking sabbatical leaves. Through a combination of strategic course rotation and course size management, and modest adjunct assistance, we met the challenges.

Outreach

What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)

Political Science has several key outreach opportunities, each of which it actively pursues. 1) Our MPA program has a number of distance courses, and two distance-only certificates. We are revising to make the entire degree online. This is a major contribution to the local, state, and national community. 2) Political Science maintains a set of distance courses for undergraduates, several of which combine to form the core of the Public Administration minor. 3) Political Science engages in regular cooperation with the Dewey Institute to provide special and regular course programming. 4) Political Science integrates community engagement projects at all levels of the program.

Strategic Initiatives

Development Activities

What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?

Political Science works with alumni and supporters to maintain a suite of scholarships and awards to support student work and special department programming. See our recent prioritization report for summary data.

Community Engagement I

Please summarize your faculty's efforts in community engagement this year.

Political Science integrates community engagement into the curriculum. Our strategy is to introduce students to civic and community engagement in the freshman year through our learning community with organized opportunities such as a Hull House service trip. Additional organized opportunities are made available during the sophomore-senior years, both through class projects and in co-curricular events. Seniors in the capstone courses (Legal Studies and Political Science) then take the initiative and design and execute their own community engagement projects as part of their capstone requirements, submitting analytical and reflective papers on their experiences. We believe this enhances the students' development and their sense of ownership, as well as their commitment to active citizenship. It is also noteworthy that Political Science faculty members have been leaders in the development of community engagement, holding workshops at local, regional and national levels on the integration of community engagement into the curriculum. Moreover, department members have been active in acquiring "liberal learning in action" grants to support community engagement activities.

Experiential Learning

We are interested in hearing about any innovative approaches you might have taken to incorporate experiential learning into your course or departmental work this year.

Political Science has a focusing vision guiding our program development and this proposal. That vision emphasizes the integration of academically meaningful experiential learning and community engagement opportunities into our programs at every level. Because we believe that learning based on active inquiry and discovery is superior to passive-based approaches, Political Science is committed to integrated experiential learning components as part of its program. Not only do we emphasize active learning in many undergraduate and graduate courses (sample syllabi are available on request from the department), but we integrate experiential learning through an aggressive internship program which places undergraduate and graduate students in a variety of settings to enhance their learning and contribute to their professional development. Department documents detail student internships since 2001. Political Science has been successful in placing interns in positions providing valuable experiences, including the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives, U.S. Congress, courts and law offices, Terre Haute mayor's office, and many others. In 2003-2004, the department decided to accelerate its efforts and seek external funds to support a more aggressive approach. Consequently, we participated in the preparation of the ISU "Focus Indiana" grant. With major funding from the Lilly Foundation, Political Science has become a leading pilot program in the Focus Indiana grant, utilizing its grant funds to support students in a variety of internships at the local and state levels. We placed our first Focus Indiana interns in the fall of 2004 which, as appendix e plainly indicates, marks a major expansion point for this element of our program. Since it started, we have placed 20 Focus Indiana interns. Political Science also has an aggressive student research component (both independent and collaborative) which has linked students and faculty together in dynamic research partnerships. For instance, we have a research assistance element linking undergraduates and graduate students into faculty research projects. Drs.

McAtee, Chambers, Maule, Rashid, Scott, and Van Sickle are examples of those who have engaged undergraduates; they are joined by Drs. Buchanan, Erisman, Fredericks, Klarner, McDowell, and Perry in engaging with graduate students. It is noteworthy that members of the department have been awarded undergraduate and graduate research mentoring fellowships by the Alliance for Excellence, Engagement, and Experience in support of collaborative faculty-student research. The department's signature student research program is its innovative, nationally-distinctive Democracy and World Politics Research Experience for Undergraduates program, which is supported by a three-year, renewable \$285,000 National Science Foundation grant. One of only two such Political Science research programs in the country, the Political Science REU involves 4 faculty mentors, a graduate student mentor, and visiting scholars who work with 12 undergraduate students from ISU and other universities across the country. The first summer program was held in 2005, with great success, and applications for the 2006 program are currently being received. One program reviewer wrote: "Your program gets it right... you will produce graduates ready to do advanced research and prepared for doctoral study, preparation equal to or superior to that received at Big Ten and Ivy League schools." We also have other meaningful field study and applied learning opportunities, which we intend to expand with support from this award. For example Political Science has sent students to the 2004 Democratic National Convention, a special Inside Washington Seminar in January 2005; the 2006 national Model U.S. House of Representatives simulation; an annual Washington DC field study; and a meeting of the Indiana Circuit Court of Appeals in April 2005 (students conducted a mock Appellate Court on the case later).

Future Goals

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The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be recognized as a Pre-eminent University?

The department's programs and strategic plans are also tightly aligned with the university's strategies and central objectives. This is demonstrated in our embrace of experiential learning and community engagement and our aggressive efforts to develop those areas of our curriculum. The department has also played a prominent role in the First Year/Learning Community program. A charter member of this effort, we field Political Science and Legal Studies learning communities, and support Women's Studies, Multicultural Studies, and Teacher Education learning communities as well. Political Science has also played a significant role in the planning and implementation of the American Democracy Project (ADP). Moreover, we are central to the university's planned Civic Leadership program. Political Science faculty are involved in the planning of the new program and have created the new gateway course, and it will be housed in Political Science. Political Science has a focusing vision guiding our program development. That vision emphasizes the integration of academically meaningful experiential learning and community engagement opportunities into our programs at every level. We believe that by organizing our efforts around these components of our programs, we will build on our high-quality curriculum to develop the reputation as a cutting-edge Political Science Department. We also believe that, as we do so, we will become a program of choice with a high profile in our state, our region, and our country that attracts students and supporters. Experiential Learning. Because we believe that learning based on active inquiry and discovery is superior to passive-based approaches, Political Science is committed to integrated experiential learning components as part of its program. Not only do we emphasize active learning in many undergraduate and graduate courses (sample syllabi are available on request from the department), but we integrate experiential learning through an aggressive internship program which places undergraduate and graduate students in a variety of settings to enhance their learning and

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