

# Indiana State University

2006 - 2007 Academic Annual Report

Department of Political Science

## Vision Statement

[View/Modify Vision](#)

**Below is your vision statement from previous years. Please take this opportunity to review it and if necessary update it.**

Students graduating from Indiana State University with a degree in political science will: -Be prepared for life after graduation, with a specific emphasis on preparing materials for application to employment or professional schools. -Have a thorough understanding of the five sub-fields (International Politics, Comparative Politics, Public Administration, Theory and Methods, and American Politics) of political science. -Have strong communication skills, such that they are able to present coherent arguments in defense of political positions and values they have adopted. They will also display an understanding of the objections to their positions and values. -Be able to conduct and present original political science and legal studies research, and have practical opportunities to apply their classroom learning in a variety of applied settings.

## 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) Curricular Revisions and Enhancements. During AY 2006-07, the Political Science department developed a new, interdisciplinary Civic Leadership minor program. This program will help students develop leadership skills through a combination of classroom, cocurricular, and community engagement activities, and should quickly become a highly desired program. We envision this to become a program for recruiting students to ISU. Political Science also revised its Public Administration (PA) minor program, moving it from a distance education (correspondence) delivery format to the regular classroom. This program will help students develop an understanding of government operations at local, state, and national levels, and has already seen a strong increase in student interest, particularly students from the American Humanics program. In addition, we have started to implement our "MPA Without Walls" using "Breeze" technology; this allows on-site and online students to participate in the same live classroom. We also have received university approval for our online MPA degree, and are awaiting state approval. This will make us one of the few online MPA degree programs in the country, with strong expectations for student recruitment. 2) Student and Faculty-Student Collaborative Research. The Political Science department hosted the second Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) on "Democracy and World Politics" during summer 2006. Five ISU students and seven from colleges and universities across the country participated in the successful program. Two graduate students and one undergraduate student collaborated with Political Science faculty on research supported by two Promising Scholar grants (Chambers, Maule), and one graduate student collaborated with two faculty members (Fredericks and McAtee) on an Alliance for Excellence through Engagement and Experience (AEEE) mentoring grant. Two other faculty (Buchanan and Klarner) collaborated with two graduate students on projects

that resulted in coauthored publications. As a result of individual and collaborative research, three graduate students presented conference papers at the International Studies Association – Midwest Regional conference, 2 undergraduate students and three non-ISU REU participants presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, one undergraduate and two graduate students presented at the Midwest Political Science Association conference, one undergraduate and one graduate student presented at the Indiana Campus Compact's annual Conference on Service Learning, and one undergraduate and two graduate students presented at ISU's Research Showcase.

3) Faculty Scholarship and Achievement. Political Science continued its high level of achievement in scholarship, teaching, and service. In 2006, department faculty published 15 peer-reviewed book chapters, 9 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 2 other publications. Faculty members also presented nine papers at professional conferences and made three other presentations based on their scholarly knowledge. We also have one book, two book chapters, and eight peer-reviewed journal articles forthcoming or recently published in 2007. The department already was home to a President's Medalist, a Caleb Mills Teaching Award recipient, a College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Professor, a Smith Richardson Foundation fellowship recipient, a Promising Scholar, and recipients of one AEEE Undergraduate Faculty Fellow Mentor grants and one AEEE Graduate Faculty Fellow Mentor grant. In 2006-07, Political Science faculty were honored with two more Promising Scholar grants (Maule in the 2nd cohort and Klarner in the 3rd), another AEEE Graduate Faculty Fellow Mentor grant, the University Distinguished Service Award, the Theodore Dreiser Research/Creativity Award, the inaugural University Honors Program Faculty of the Year Award, and the Darlene Hantzis Advocacy Award from the Women's Studies program. In addition, two faculty – Buchanan and Klarner – were awarded the 2006 Polly Prize from Political Forecasting.com for their forecast of the 2006 U.S. House of Representatives election.

4) Student Internships and Experiential Learning. Political Science continued to expand the internship and experiential learning opportunities for its students. The department has served as one of the pilot programs for the Focus Indiana internship program, and has continued to award these internships. Political Science has placed students in positions with the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives, the U.S. Congress, courts and law offices, and the Terre Haute mayor's office. During 2006-07, we again placed four students (three undergraduates and one graduate) in the Indiana state legislature. We also placed students in the Terre Haute human resources department and the Vigo County budget office, with the possibility of making these into regular internship positions. In addition to the internships, Political Science sent three undergraduate students to the inaugural Model U.S. House of Representatives program in Washington, DC during 2006, where the students gained legislative experience. Two more students have been accepted for the 2007 session. Also, Political Science students again participated successfully in the annual Hull House service learning trip to Chicago, and the Department's annual field trip to Washington, DC to hear oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court.

5) ISU and the Political Science department received its first opportunity to teach the Indiana government and politics course at the State House. This course is offered each spring for the students interning with the legislature. ISU will now be part of the five-year rotation for teaching this course.

### 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?**

Political Science continued its high level of scholarly productivity. In 2006, department faculty published 15 peer-reviewed book chapters, 9 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 2 other publications. Faculty members also presented nine papers at professional conferences and made three other presentations based on their scholarly knowledge. We also have one book, two book

chapters, and eight peer-reviewed journal articles forthcoming or recently published in 2007. The department already was home to a President's Medalist, a Caleb Mills Teaching Award recipient, a College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Professor, a Smith Richardson Foundation fellowship recipient, a Promising Scholar, and recipients of one AEEE Undergraduate Faculty Fellow Mentor grants and one AEEE Graduate Faculty Fellow Mentor grant. In 2006-07, Political Science faculty were honored with two more Promising Scholar grants (Maule in the 2nd cohort and Klarner in the 3rd), another AEEE Graduate Faculty Fellow Mentor grant, and the Theodore Dreiser Research/Creativity Award. In addition, two faculty – Buchanan and Klarner – were awarded the 2006 Polly Prize from Political Forecasting.com for their forecast of the 2006 U.S. House of Representatives election. Although not all department faculty members are equally productive or committed to scholarly productivity, all are active scholars who meet or surpass the standards of the department, college, and university.

### 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 members who have actively pursued internal and external grants. These members have been successful in acquiring important resources for the department. Overall, such efforts need to be broadened so that more members are engaged in such activities. The department's National Science Foundation-funded Summer REU grant project migrated to Oklahoma State University with the departure of our former chair. Faculty in the department are active in off-campus professional service. Some are officers in professional associations, such as the Latin American Studies Association, while others serve on editorial boards for scholarly journals or serve as editors (e.g., Asian Security). One uses her scholarly expertise while serving on the executive or advisory boards for Terre Haute community organizations (the Council on Domestic Abuse, and the Homelessness Coalition). Department faculty also are active as peer referees for book and journal manuscripts (at least five books and three article manuscripts reviewed in 2006), and they served as panel chairs at scholarly conferences. In addition, at least two faculty (Fredericks and Perry) served as scholarly or professional consultants to off-campus groups in 2006, and three others (Chambers, Klarner, and McDowell) served as political consultants to local, national, and international media. The area of contracts and consulting is an area of growth for department faculty, especially faculty in Public Administration. We expect to expand our efforts in these areas over the coming years, and have conducted initial discussions with the city and county government regarding opportunities for in-service training programs for city and county employees.

### 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.**

The biggest pedagogical innovation within the Department in 2006-07 has been the introduction of the new "Breeze" classroom to implement the "MPA Without Walls" that allows online and on-site students to participate in the same live classroom. This allows our MPA degree to be delivered anywhere, and the Department has received University approval for launching our online MPA degree (state approval is still pending). Combined with the revision and strengthening of our undergraduate PA minor, the overall Public Administration program is set to grow. The Department also developed a new, interdisciplinary Civic Leadership minor. This program will help students develop leadership skills through a combination of classroom, cocurricular, and community engagement activities, and should quickly become a highly desired program. We envision this to become a program for recruiting students to ISU. One faculty member also is piloting a new

approach to service learning connected with the classroom experience. Based on her Promising Scholar grant research, Dr. Maule has students learning about poverty in her PSCI 107 course, participating in a service learning trip or volunteering in a local non-profit, and then writing a policy paper that suggests a way to help alleviate poverty (based on their classroom and co-curricular experience).

### Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

#### **How is the department making sure that students are able to get the classes they need to graduate in a timely manner?**

Political Science uses both course scheduling and academic advising to ensure that students are able to get the courses they want and need in a timely manner so that they can graduate. Academic advisors work with the students to plan out their course of study. The Department utilizes the breadth of the class day from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm to schedule courses, including evening classes. High volume courses are offered at least annually if not every semester (some with multiple sections); other required courses are offered on three- or four-semester cycles. High demand electives are also scheduled on regular rotations. In addition, the Department has transferred its PA minor from a distance education (correspondence) delivery format to a regular classroom format to facilitate student enrollment in this minor.

### Outreach

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

Political Science has several regular and some irregular outreach opportunities that it participates in. The MPA program has online courses as well as two online certificate programs that serve the local, state, and national government communities. Department faculty regularly participate in the Dewey Institute to provide regular and special programs. Faculty have also participated in summer training institutes for area middle and high school teachers, and have participated over the last three years in the Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders. Integration of community engagement activities throughout the curriculum also provides outreach to the community.

### Assessment

#### **Please share your stated student learning outcomes.**

Use language well Articulate a wide array of thoughts about important political and social issues Discern arguments in Political Science based on empirical findings Comprehend legal arguments in judicial opinions Think more deeply about good policy and good government Identify the stages of the political process Diagram the institutions of the of the American Judicial System Compare the political systems and policy outputs of different countries Write proficiently Write well about policy issues Construct a research proposal/design Brief judicial opinions Craft an appellate brief or judicial opinion Analyze political arguments Analyze legal arguments Participate in a study abroad experience, internship, service learning, community engagement, student government, directed research, undergraduate research conference, disciplinary conference, and/or co-curricular activity

### **Strategic Initiatives**

#### Community Engagement I

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

Political Science faculty have been engaged in numerous community engagement activities during 2006-07. One faculty member has provided consulting services to agencies within the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, while another serves on the executive board of the Council on Domestic Abuse as well as the Homelessness Coalition. Faculty members have served as consultants for local media on political events, and have regularly participated in programming of the Dewey Institute and the Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders. Political Science department members have overseen internships for students in local government and non-profit agencies, and have sponsored service-learning activities at local and regional non-profit agencies. The issue of poverty, hunger, and homelessness at local and regional levels has been integrated into PSCI 107, and the scholarship on engagement and service-learning on this issue is the focus of a Promising Scholar grant (Maule).

### Experiential Learning

#### **What is your vision for experiential learning in your department?**

The Political Science department's vision for experiential learning is to continue our strong use of this student engagement practice, and to continue to expand our support of it.

### Fundraising Activities

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

The Department has not directly engaged in any fundraising activities during the past year, other than through grant writing. However, we launched a Department newsletter this past year to inform students, administrators, and alumni (potential donors) of the wonderful and successful activities that Political Science faculty and students are engaging in. Establishing these links with alumni is a first step toward cultivating potential donors.

### **Quality**

### Quality

#### **Please provide 1-2 suggestions to increase the ability of your department or the University to meet the criteria above.**

The Political Science department can increase its ability to meet these criteria. Two ways in which this can be done are: 1) to develop better partnerships with local and regional non-profit and governmental agencies in order to cultivate internships for students and provide training for the employees of such agencies; 2) to develop assessment protocols for evaluating specific student learning outcomes on a two-year cycle in order to ensure high-quality learning for our students.

### Feedback

#### **This section is to allow you to share your ideas for enhancing enrollment, dealing with budget and other challenges facing the university community.**

ISU remains limited by its reliance on student tuitions and state allocations to fund its activities. The university needs to get the capital campaign into a higher gear so that we build an endowment to assist in the funding of our efforts.