

## **Administrative Response to Discipline Review**

**Political Science**

**15 June 2011**

The Political Science Discipline Review was presented in the Spring of 2011. We thank you for your efforts to create, maintain, improve, and expand high quality courses, as well as your continued efforts to make the discipline something about which the college in general and you in particular can take great pride.

You are complimented on your report and presentation, including the “Discipline Overview” section informing and reminding us about the roots of Political Science and what it involves. Knowing how you believe it fits within educational and social contexts is helpful, and sets the stage for further conversations.

This response is in three parts: 1) Commendations, 2) Response to Recommendations made by the SAC and 3) Closing comments.

### **Commendations**

- Alignment of course outcomes and college core outcomes and general education/discipline studies outcomes and criteria: you took this task seriously and did a thorough job.
- Assessment of course outcomes: the breadth of assessment strategies utilized is impressive. Your efforts were validated by comments made by former students at the presentation.
- Results of assessment of outcomes: your plans of action taken as a result of assessment show commitment to continuous improvement of your curriculum and service to students.
- Service learning: providing opportunity for students to interact with the community is beneficial to all – student, community, college.

- Internationalization: continuing to explore how we can provide opportunities to students and faculty members to understand the world as interconnected communities is appreciated.
- Added courses and course offerings around the district: your willingness to add new courses and offer courses throughout the district, including Southeast Center, benefits our students.

### **Administrative Response to the SAC's Recommendations**

Administrative responses to Political Science's recommendations are found in *italics* below.

- Students graduating or transferring to other institutions should be required to take at least one US government course. If we are serious about educating citizens who are responsibly engaged in their civic communities we must provide that education. There is no better discipline than political science to accomplish this goal. The PS faculty is ready to work with the Administration, the legislature in Salem, community groups, ASPCC, or any other entity that can move toward accomplishing this goal. Oregon should not be left behind among other states that already require these courses for graduation.
  - *It is easy to agree with your position and difficult to imagine how this would happen without legislation. As discussed at the presentation, changing statewide degrees (AAOT, ASOT – Business) would involve consultation with and agreement by 17 community colleges and 7 universities. Changing degrees which PCC alone controls (AS, AGS, AAS) would require significant changes in our General Education/Discipline Studies system. We would be happy to discuss this further, come next Fall.*
- The PS SAC needs to promote the benefits of a civic education to the various Degree, certificates, and awards programs. It is a shame that only six programs require or recommend students in their areas take a political science course. PS has to demonstrate its relevancy in a much more transparent manner.
  - *This is addressed somewhat above. As discussed at the presentation, you might contact the “CTE Chairs Council” about a discussion about the appropriateness of PS courses in CTE degrees.*

- The PS faculty needs to continue to focus on assignments in our courses that directly access College Core outcomes. In order to accomplish this we need to share best practices within the SAC and encourage all faculty to challenge, inspire, and encourage our students to perform at the highest level possible.
  - *Agreed, and we support your efforts to do this.*
- The PS faculty need to especially focus on the communication and critical thinking outcomes since these are crucial to student success at our transfer institutions.
  - *Agreed, and we support your efforts to do this.*
- More opportunities and resources are needed for Part time faculty to engage in professional development. We encourage Part time faculty to participate more effectively in college service activities whenever possible, recognizing that this is above and beyond their contractual obligations.
  - *Agreed, and we support your efforts to do this and encourage you to encourage part-time instructors to consider all professional development activities available to them.*
- The PS SAC working with other members of the College community needs to continue work on the one year certificate in Mediation in Peace and Conflict Studies. This will provide yet another option for students who wish to work in the community, non-profits agencies, or continue graduate work at PSU in Peace and Conflict Studies.
  - *Since certificates are, by State rules, limited to CTE programs, we encourage you to engage in conversations with appropriate CTE SACs, e.g., Criminal Justice.*
- The Foreign Student and Faculty Exchange efforts currently initiated by Michael Sonnleitner need to proceed toward completion, so PCC can have a robust international exchange program that can enhance the lives of our students and the entire College community.
  - *Please continue to work on the international exchange program through the faculty-administration committee now in place.*
- We need to continue to be sensitive to students needs whether it is more and different courses, offered at a variety of times and campuses; offering lower cost options for textbooks; meeting the needs of OSD, ESL students, students in crisis, or returning veterans. Faculty must do all we can (working with college resources) to ensure the success of our students.

- *Agreed, and we support your efforts to do this. Please also consider expansion of Distance Learning sections as another means of serving more students.*
- RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY: With the retirement of a full time (split History/Political Science) faculty person at Cascade in 2000 (Julius Stokes), Political Science as a PCC subject area was reduced from 2 & 2/5ths full-time positions to only 2 (serving all PCC campuses between them). In every Program Review over the last 20 years, the Political Science SAC has expressed a great NEED to expand the number of full-time Political Science faculty employed at PCC.
  - *A two-year temporary position will be created for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years and split between Cascade and Rock Creek, allowing the district to have full-time Political Science instructors at three campuses. A full-time permanent position will be considered as funding becomes available, possibly for the 2013-2015 biennium.*

## **Closing Comments**

We thank you for your efforts to create a civic-minded, politically-literate community. Your work in this regard is much appreciated and the area's citizenry benefit.

Administrative Response submitted by Scott Huff on behalf of the Deans of Instruction:

Birgitte Ryslinge, Rock Creek

Jeff Triplett, Sylvania

Julie Kopet, Extended Learning

Scott Huff, Cascade