

Initiative Report for Social Science 2009-10

Political Science 1.0 FTE Faculty Position

Summary:

Request of a 1.0 FTE Political Science position in Social Science to facilitate a comprehensive political science program at LCC. The position is needed because of:

1. The growing number of courses now offered in the discipline.
2. Student demand for the teaching of these courses.
3. The likelihood of there not being even one full-time contracted faculty able to offer all of these courses.
4. The likely retirement of one of the two contracted faculty in political science.
5. The advent of Lane's new Peace Studies Center and potential program.

Description

For at least the last two decades we have had no more than 1 contracted faculty in this discipline. Stan Taylor remains the only full-time faculty member in the discipline, Steve Candee remains approximately half-time in political science and half-time in Cooperative Education. Prior to Stan's contracted position, George Alvergue was half-time in political science and half-time in history; Joe Kremers was half-time in political science; and, Candee has never been more than half-time in political science, even as lead instructor for the discipline. In addition, with advent of the new Peace Center and the likelihood of the development of a more extensive program to accompany it, Stan Taylor's availability for instruction in other courses will be affected.

We currently have four part-time political science instructors, the most part-timers we have had in the last twenty years. Each of them is more than "holding his own" in terms of class size and retention as indicated in the data for the past year in terms of FTE (and better than some other disciplines.)

Over the past few years, a number of new, innovative and exciting political science courses have been developed and introduced into the discipline including PS 104 & PS 105, Problems in US Politics Through Film I & II; PS 275, Legal Processes Through Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; and PS 297, Environmental Politics (which is now part of the Learning Community, "Reconnecting with Nature: Science, Spirituality and Political Activism.") Proposals for other new courses have also been discussed, including a joint venture with the Philosophy discipline (possibly a new learning community) in Political Philosophy, possibly on-line American Government sequence as well as other on-line or hybrid courses, a course on Middle Eastern politics (which could also introduce a course for inclusion into the diversity requirement,) and the introduction of intro courses in Public Policy which could feed into both the University of Oregon's

political science program as well as the Planning, Public Policy and Management program at the U of O and the public policy program at Oregon State University. LCC is a "feeder" school for both Oregon State University and the University of Oregon. As such, we should be able to expand our discipline and course offerings to better coincide with the size and scope of the departments in those institutions. Political Science remains one of the largest departments among the social sciences in those schools and we believe that we could better recruit and prepare students in this field if we were allowed to expand our offerings.

While we are a strong discipline in terms of teaching experience and expertise, scholastic achievement, and student response as reflected in course evaluations, we are also (unfortunately) an "aging" cadre of academics, two of whom (adjuncts) all already semi-retired and one (contracted) who may be looking at retirement in the next few years. The discipline could very well benefit from the infusion of some "new (contracted) blood" to sustain it into the future.

There will also be the "ripple effect" of an expansion of the political science discipline into other areas of the college, most notably for Cooperative Education: Political Science and Pre Law, from which the Social Science Department clearly benefits in terms of FTE generation.

For all of these reasons, we feel that it is time for this department to acknowledge the need for an expansion of the political science discipline and the necessity for an additional contracted faculty member to help facilitate it.

Questions and Answers

How is the initiative linked to the Unit Plans most recently submitted?

- 1. How does it continue the achievement of those goals?**
- 2. If this is a continuation of an initiative started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.**

How is this initiative linked to the efficiencies and productivities plans you had last year?

- 1. How does it continue the achievement of these plans?**
- 2. If this is a continuation of an efficiency or productivity plan started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.**

This initiative has been submitted each of the last three years for a new full-time hire in Political Science has increased over that time (as indicated in initiative description). For Political Science to continue to be a viable discipline, not only for our students but especially for those who plan to transfer to a four-year school, having a strong, stable,

fresh, and innovative faculty is imperative. At the University of Oregon alone (for which we are a "feeder school") Political Science continues to be one of the strongest disciplines in all of the Social Sciences. It has also been recognized as the strongest of all the liberal arts disciplines for career advancement in other related fields. At LCC, Political Science courses are part of the core requirements for the Criminal Justice major, strongly recommended for Human Services majors, and highly complimentary of economics as well.

Describe the resources needed:

Political Science 1.0 FTE Position

Staffing

- Salary (\$47000-\$59000)
- OPE (\$26226-\$32922)

What specific measurable program outcomes do you expect to achieve with this initiative? The outcomes should be specific enough to be measurable. Also, outline the method that will be used to determine the results.

Outcomes:

- Increase in both the number of offerings and number of students per term taking political science courses and attendant FTE generation.
- Better continuity and reliability of course offerings in the discipline.
- Greater participation and input in college-wide initiatives, committees, etc.
- Enhancement of assistance given to students in pursuing careers in this field.
- Expansion of political science courses to complete major requirements as well as completion of the AAOT.

Measures:

- Demonstration of an increase in the number of Political Science offerings.
- Demonstration of an increase in the number of students served.
- Continuity of offerings, and faculty assigned to teach them.
- Greater participation by discipline members in college-wide activities.
- Number of students using Political Science courses to fulfill both major requirements as well as AAOT requirements.

Department Priority:

Unit Resources:

Funding Request: Carl Perkins

Funding Request: Curriculum Development

Funding Request: Technology Fee