

Final Assessment Report

Name of Program

Political Science (Undergraduate Review)

Degrees Offered

- Political Science Modules: Honors Specialization, Major, Minor
- Interdisciplinary programs: Combined Honors with Ivey's HBA; Combined Honors with Law's JD
- Diploma in Public Administration (DPA)

External Consultants

David Black, Professor - Political Science, Dalhousie
Alistair Edgar, Executive Director (Balsillie School of Intl Affairs) and Associate Professor - Balsillie School of International Affairs and Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University

Internal Reviewers

Tracy Isaacs, Professor and Associate Dean (Academic) - Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Date of Site Visit

April 25, 2016

Evaluation

Good Quality

Approved by SUPR-U

September 7, 2016

Approved by SCAPA

No date entered.

Executive Summary

The reviewers spent a day meeting with senior admin (John Doerksen, Karen Campbell, Alan Weedon), Social Science Dean Bob Andersen and Associate Dean (Academic) Joan Finegan, Librarians Catherine Wilkins and Bruce Fyfe, Chair of Political Science Don Abelson, undergrad program advisor Lorrie Lefebvre, acting undergraduate chair Laura Stephenson, and several faculty members and students from the department. The overall impression of the programs expressed in the externals' report is favourable, with some recommendations about aligning course themes with "Signature Areas of Research" and streamlining options, for facilitating a sense of community in the department for undergrads through the use of space, for clarifying and aligning learning objectives at the course level, for increasing undergraduate enrolments, for reducing reliance on LD instructors and increasing tenured and tenure track faculty, and for attending to some internal issues in the department as they relate to the delivery of the undergrad program. The Department responds to all key recommendations and concerns, as does the Dean's Office, indicating that both have given serious consideration to the report and its recommendations.

Significant Strengths of Program

- strong curriculum
- excellent learning experience for students
- appropriate and effective methods for student evaluation
- impressive support through Western Libraries
- experiential learning opportunities

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement

- classroom renovations and student space within the department
- more courses taught by full-time faculty
- further development of experiential learning opportunities

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
No recommendations required for program sustainability			