



**Political Science
King's University College
Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan**

Faculty / Affiliated University College	King's University College
Degrees Offered	BA
Modules Reviewed	Honors Specialization in Political Science Major in Political Science
External Consultants	Hevina S. Dashwood, Professor, Department of Political Science, Brock University Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Associate Professor, Department of Political Studies, Queen's University
Internal Reviewer	Geoff Read, Vice-President, Academic and Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, Huron University College
Date of Site Visit	March 21-22, 2019
Evaluation	Good Quality
Approval Dates	SUPR-U: September 18, 2019 SCAPA: October 2, 2019 Senate:
Year of Next Review	2026-27

In accordance with Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Final Assessment Report provides a summary of the cyclical review, internal responses and assessment and evaluation of the undergraduate modules delivered by the Department of Political Science, King's University College. This report considers the following documents: the program's self-study, the external consultants' report and the responses from the Department and Affiliated University College. The Final Assessment Report identifies the strengths of the program, opportunities for program enhancement and improvement and details and prioritizes the recommendations of the external consultants and prioritizes those recommendations that are selected for implementation.

The Implementation Plan details the recommendations from the Final Assessment Report that are selected for implementation, identifies who is responsible for approving and acting on the recommendations, any action or follow-up that is required and the timeline for completion.

The Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan is sent for approval through SUPR-U, SCAPA, Senate and the Ontario Universities' Council on Quality Assurance and is made available on a publicly accessible location on Western's IQAP website. The Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan is the only document resulting from the undergraduate cyclical

review process that is made public, all other documents are confidential to the Program, Affiliated University College and SUPR-U.

Executive Summary

The external consultants, Dr. Hevina Dashwood of Brock University and Dr. Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant of Queen's University, visited King's University College's campus on 21-22 March 2019. They had a very full agenda and met with various stakeholders including individual meetings with the tenure-stream members of the department, a group meeting with the part-time instructors who teach in the department, a meeting with the tenure-stream members of the department as a group, a meeting with Political Science students, a meeting with support staff, another with staff from the King's library, a tête-à-tête with the Associate Dean, and a meeting with the Vice-Principal and Academic Dean of King's. In short, the reviewers were very busy but certainly had access to the information they needed to author a fully-informed review of the Political Science Department's programs.

The external reviewers' report can be fairly characterized as strongly enthusiastic. They praise the Department and its offerings on many grounds, including the dedication and quality of its tenure-stream and part-time faculty, the depth of its experiential learning opportunities for students, and the breadth, particularly considering its relatively small size, of its offerings. The reviewers pointedly remark that given the high quality of Political Science's current programs, no significant alterations or innovations are required. They identify just one gap in the Department's breadth, which they believe should be filled by an additional tenure-stream appointment in the area of Indigenous politics.

Significant Strengths of the Program

The following program strengths are identified in both the self-study and the External Consultants' Report

- Consistency with King's and Western's missions.
- The high caliber of faculty and teaching.
- The breadth of experiential learning opportunities.
- Small class sizes, liberal arts college environment, first-year tutorials
- The breadth in both content and theoretical approaches to which students are introduced
- Coherence of program design with Program Learning Outcomes

Summary of the Reviewers' Key Recommendations and Department/Faculty Responses

1. Offer coverage of Indigenous Politics

The reviewers identify a gap in the department's offerings in that there is not significant coverage of Indigenous politics. They strongly suggest a tenure-stream hire specializing in this area would go a long way towards addressing this need.

The Department concurs with the reviewers' assessment in their response. Dr. Sauro Camiletti, Vice-Principal and Academic Dean at King's University College, responds by agreeing that this programmatic need exists but noting both the present competition for resources internally and the high demand in the marketplace for scholars with this expertise.

2. Offer more support to faculty members engaging in experiential learning

The reviewers indicate their sense that the members of the Political Science Department are, at least at times, overworked and suggest that one way to alleviate the pressure on faculty members' time would be to provide them with more support for their design and running of experiential learning opportunities. At present, just one part-time staff position exists to support all King's faculty in this manner.

In their response, the Department agrees strongly with this recommendation. Dr. Camiletti notes that King's is "in the process of remediating" this concern and others, presumably through the hiring of additional support staff.

3. Reduce reliance on part-time faculty

While the reviewers laud the quality of the part-time instructors in Political Science, they note that roughly 50% of the Department's courses are taught by part-timers and suggest that this represents an over-reliance on such faculty. They feel that the creation of a new tenure-line in the area of Indigenous Politics could help begin to ensure that a greater percentage of courses are taught by tenure-stream faculty.

The department does not respond to this concern directly, but one can infer from their strong support for adding a tenure-stream position that they agree this should be a priority. Likewise, Dr. Camiletti too covers this only in his broad comment that King's is in the process of remediating this and other concerns.

4. Reduce the size of first-year tutorials further

The reviewers recommend running more first-year tutorial sections to reduce their size and improve the student experience yet further.

The Department responds by noting the difficulty in recruiting TAs, principally MA students from main campus, and alluding to some structural obstacles that prevent graduate students from taking work at King's, which they hope to work with the main campus Political Science department to remove. Dr. Camiletti does not respond to this particular observation by the reviewers.

5. Offer more financial support to students for experiential learning

The consultants point out that the many class trips and so forth that the Department offers are costly for students and suggest that any additional financial aid to students to help them with these expenses would be welcome.

The Department concurs that this would be desirable. Dr. Camiletti does not respond specifically to this recommendation.

Other Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

- No additional considerations to enhance or enrich the program were identified by the reviewers. The report is overwhelmingly positive.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that require action and/or follow-up. The Department Chair, in consultation with the Affiliated University College Principal will be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.

Recommendation	Responsibility
1. Incorporate further coverage of Indigenous Politics into the programs.	The Chair of the King's Political Science Department; the Dean and Associate Dean