Comprehensive Program Review
Instructions, Reporting Vehicle, and Definitions

Reporting Vehicle
Institution: Columbus State University
Academic Program Name: Political Science
CIP Code: 45100101
College or School and Department: College of Letters and Sciences
Date of Last Internal Review: January 2009
Current Date: July 12, 2017

Outcome of Previous Program Review
In the 2009 CPR, the review found that the program needed additional full-time faculty members to handle the increase in enrollment and course load. The department went from six full-time faculty members in 2009 to nine full-time faculty members in 2016. The Political Science Department has experienced faculty turnover and hired a new chair within the last four years. Three of the challenges noted in the last CPR were hiring faculty with terminal degrees, providing academic advising to students, and helping student with their career development. In 2015, all faculty teaching the departmental courses have terminal degrees and are engaged in creative endeavors. Through partnerships with the Advising Center (ACE), all freshmen and sophomores are advised by professional advisors, while juniors and seniors receive advising from faculty. Additionally, the department collaborates with the Center for Career Development to provide guidance on internships, careers, and job attainment.

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Indicators of Measures of Quality:			
Student Input – Undergraduate Programs	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015
Standardized Test Scores), for undergraduate programs-- ACT or SAT – and Number of Students Reported (Total N):	SAT 1020 ACT 20 (N) 62 (N) 34	SAT 984 ACT 19 (N) 47 (N) 27	SAT 998 ACT 19 (N) 37 (N) 24
Freshman Index (as applicable)	SAT 2559 ACT 2491	SAT 2458 ACT 2497	SAT 2528 ACT 2444
Other - Institutions may substitute other measures of quality (e.g. entry scores or GPA into a degree program such as nursing, business, education) as appropriate. Used **HSGPA**	2.96	2.94	3.04
Student Output – Undergraduate Programs	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015
Average Exit scores or Pass Rate on national/state exams for licensure (as appropriate) Also indicate the number of students reporting scores for the test(s) (Total N):	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average Graduating Major GPA or Cumulative GPA for the Academic Year. Please indicate which GPA is used: **Cumulative GPA** Also indicate the number of students reporting scores for the test(s) (Total N):	3.14 29	3.11 11	2.88 12
Employment rates of graduates Information received from Exit Survey by the Center for Career Development	n/a	FT Emp – 14 Graduate School –5 Military – 1 Seeking Emp – 5 Internship-2 Traveling – 3 Other - 2	FT Emp – 9 Seeking Emp– 3 Graduate School -6 Traveling -1 Military – 1 Prof sports – 1 Internship 2
Admission into graduate programs (if available)	57%	41%	18%

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Institutional Indicators of Quality- Student Output (campus determined). Please define what indicators are used and how they are interpreted. **NSSE 2013 Results for Political Science.**

NSSE results reflect a positive student perception of the quality of the program. In all of the measurable categories, the Political Science program is higher except for the quality of interaction (campus environments) and collaborative learning opportunities with peers.

ITEM	Political Science	CSU	USG	Comp Peers	Asp Peers
Academic Challenge					
Higher Order Learning	48.3	43.3	42.3	41.1	40.4
Reflective and Integra2tive Learning	45.6	39.2	39	38.2	38.4
Learning Strategies	43.3	42.5	43.2	42.3	39.3
Quantitative Reasoning	40.0	27.8	31.	29.9	30.1
Experiences with Faculty					
Student-Faculty Interaction	27.5	24.2	26.7	23.0	24.4
Effective Teaching Practices	46	41.7	41.7	41.4	40.5
Campus Environments					
Quality of Interactions	40.0	42.9	43.4	42.8	42.2
Supportive Environments	41.9	33.1	35.1	32.6	34.1
Learning with Peers					
Collaborative Learning	28	31.0	34.3	31.7	34.2
Discussion with Diverse Others	50.00	44.1	42.5	43.7	41.6

Faculty	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015
Number of Terminally Degreed Faculty in the Department (regardless of whether the faculty teach in the program)	4	4	2
Number of Non-Terminally Degreed Faculty in the Department (regardless of whether the faculty teach in the program)	2	2	2
Undergraduate or Graduate programs: Total amount of sponsored research funding awarded for the academic year	n/a	n/a	n/a
Undergraduate or Graduate programs: Number of peer-reviewed publications for the academic year.	2010-2017 Edited books – 2 Peer Reviewed Articles - 3		
Undergraduate or Graduate programs: Number of faculty research fellowships awarded in the academic year. **Internal faculty fellows**	1	n/a	n/a
Institutional Indicators of Faculty Quality- Output (campus determined) Faculty Outputs - teaching evaluation scores		4.32 for 2014-2016	
Faculty Outputs – Credit hours	5,373	5,043	5,199
Faculty Outputs – Faculty Awards and Service **Faculty Awards** Best Writer Award Bill Chappel Graduate Faculty Award Best Teacher of the University Award **Service Commitment** Current programs have addressed national, state and local debates. Co-sponsored "A March to Selma" Participated in President's Day in Plains, Georgia. Faculty have participated in the Diversity Planning Day. Faculty also speak at the Library lecture series. Faculty participate in the Hallock Lecture series which is popular among students and is co-sponsored by the department of political science. Faculty serve on the College Personnel Committee and post tenure committee. Some faculty work directly with the media and appear on local television. Some faculty write op-ed pieces for the Ledger Enquirer. One faculty member serves on the board for the River Valley Regional Commission. One faculty member serves as a mediator for the local courts.			

Curricular Alignment and Currency to the Discipline as well as Workforce/Occupational Need and Demand
Narrative Section: Describe additional details as deemed appropriate (*the box is expandable*).

The Departmental curriculum is strong. The political science degree is designed that students are advised to complete general education classes before they start the major. Students must satisfy Introduction to Political Science; before they can take upper level classes.

Students receive a program map that helps track and plan their classes.

Political Science student learning outcomes are evaluated in annual program review. The following outcomes are measured to improve student learning and inform program improvements.

- demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of political science in terms of its history, content, purpose and methodologies
- demonstrate knowledge of the sub-fields of political science (American politics, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, public administration, political behavior/policy, and law)
- demonstrate the ability to analyze materials (e.g. data, texts), and to think critically
- demonstrate the effective ability to communicate orally
- demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing
- be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to intellectual and social skills
- be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to governmental employment, private employment, graduate and/or profession

There is a strong relationship between the program's curriculum and program outcomes. This has been evidenced through pre-and-post test scores for the American government class.

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Indicators of Measures of Viability:			
Internal Demand for the Program	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015
Number of students who completed an application to the program (if an applicable process is in place)- Institution determines the milestone for reporting purposes (e.g. point in time formal applications are reviewed and acceptances are granted)	52	50	45
Number of students who are admitted to the program --- Institution determines the milestone for reporting purposes (e.g., formal admittance to a degree program)	27	31	25
Number of students in the degree program --- Institution determines the milestone for reporting purposes	105	78	70
Standard Faculty Workload for the degree program (example: 3/3, 4/3, etc.)	4/4	4/4	4/4
Number of Faculty (tenured/track and non-tenured) supporting the degree program within the department	6	6	7
Number of Faculty (tenured/track and non-tenured) supporting the degree program outside the department	0	0	0
Number of Full-Time faculty teaching in the program	6	6	7
Number of Part-Time faculty teaching in the program	2	1	3

Indicators of Measures of Productivity:			
Time to Degree	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015
Undergraduate student time to degree (average, in years) for non-transfer students graduating in the academic year (AY)	5.38	7.33	6.27
Undergraduate student time to degree (average, in years) for transfer students graduating in the academic year (AY)	4.99	6.42	4.54
Graduation - Only provide data for the level of program being reviewed.	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015
Number of degrees awarded in the program for the academic year.	29	11	12

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Provost/VPAA Categorical Summation:

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

☑ Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

__✓__Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

_____Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

☐ Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

_____Program will be placed on a monitoring status.

_____Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

_____Program will be deactivated.

_____Program will be voluntarily terminated.

_____Other (identify/add text): _____

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Contextual Closing Narrative: In the space provided below *(and can be expanded)*, **provide a summative narrative concerning the academic program. The final statement, among other points, includes information concerning the academic program's achievements, benchmarks of progress, and areas of distinction, challenges, and aspirations, in addition to plans for action. Please share how comprehensive program review results were used for continuous improvement. The closing statement also is an opportunity to highlight shifting trends and market forces that might impact program demand (1,500 word limit).**

The Department of Political Science has experienced turnover in faculty and leadership including the chair position and college dean. Despite this turnover, the department continues to provide a curriculum and degree that attracts student enrollment. The program has nine faculty members who will collaborate with internal and external constituents to achieve the following seven goals.

Program Improvement Plan

1. Increase program enrollment by collaborating with Enrollment Services. This program's enrollment has decreased 33.3% over the past five years including AY 2010 (105 students) and AY 2014 (70 students).
2. Increase the number of students who graduate annually. Over the past five years, the program has graduated an average of 16 students per year. In AY 2013, 29 students graduated and in AY 2015, 12 students graduated reflecting a 59% decrease.
3. Identify "at-risk" students by utilizing EAB and collaborating with the Academic Center of Excellence to increase student retention and progression.
4. Increase faculty engagement in scholarship and research (e.g. peer-reviewed journal articles, books, monographs, etc.)
5. Increase funding opportunities for professional development by working with the Office of Sponsored Programs.
6. Implement a system that ensures full-time faculty teach a balance of lower division and upper division courses.
7. Develop a strategy for improving the quality of interactions, which was identified as a lower rate in the NSSE 2013 Survey results.

Provost/VPAA Signature and Date: Oria Butler 7/14/17

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Provost/VPAA's Designee Signature and Date: _____