

Executive Summary:

The History and Political Science department is currently active and vital, with a strong record of accomplishment and innovation, but also in need of resources that will enable it to continue to excel and grow. Since our last review, the department has increased its number of majors significantly, and more of our majors have been placed in top-ranked graduate and law schools. We have excellent physical facilities in Colt Hall. Both the History and the Political Science faculty have reviewed their curricula and implemented major changes to best use faculty expertise and prepare students for future studies and careers in these fields. History and Political Science have also developed assessment plans for their majors within the past year, with input from the University's assessment committee.

One of the biggest strengths of the department is the extraordinary scholarship and service of its faculty. HPS professors have been extremely active in publishing books and articles, presenting at conferences, involving students in research and conferences, mentoring, and getting research grants. Faculty have been leaders on the campus in service, from starting discussion groups on Science & Theology or Social Issues, to serving on the board of Point Loma Press, heading up PLNU efforts to get students prestigious national scholarships, such as Fulbright awards, and more. HPS faculty have also been instrumental in creating many innovative programs on campus, such as the Euroterm semester, the Institute for Politics and Public Service, and the Center for Women's Studies.

However, the department does have several needs to address. Staffing remains a significant issue; the growing number of political science majors requires more classes in American politics, and World Civilizations classes are still large in size and taught often by adjuncts rather than full-time faculty, to the detriment of the General Education experience. The department lacks a Latin American historian, a weakness noted in our last department review. Working with the Teacher Education department to serve liberal studies majors is also a concern, as their curricular changes will very likely create major staffing impacts in History and Political Science. More scholarship money is needed for HPS students, especially as we are encouraging and even requiring many of them to study abroad for a semester. Increased library resources are necessary for our students to conduct meaningful research for their courses and conferences. Faculty need more support for their extensive research and service activities.

The HPS department would very much like to work with the deans and administration to address these staffing and resource concerns. We would also like to help formulate a plan for using the Colt monies, as they become available, for departmental and student programs for which they have been designated. The department is also beginning to discuss the possibility of developing an

International Studies major that would support the mission of the university in helping students develop global understanding and prepare for careers that involve service to others around the world. Over the next five years, the HPS department anticipates continued growth, not only in size of students and faculty, but also in the quality of our pedagogy, programs, and personal relationships with the students we serve as we “teach, shape, and send.”

Linda Beail, HPS Chair
July 7, 2003

I. Environmental Scan

I.1 Overview

The Department of History and Political Science offers three undergraduate majors, Political Science, History, and Social Science, along with one undergraduate minor in History. Although not a departmental offering, the Women's Studies Minor is also supervised by faculty in this department.

In addition, the department serves the University's GE requirements through the six-unit World Civilizations sequence (HIS 110/ HIS111) and POL 101 and 190.

Since the last departmental review (1996) the Department has experienced significant growth in terms of numbers of students as well as programs offered.

Currently 120 students are enrolled in this department. We grew from a departmental total of 14 graduates in 1996 to 27 students in 2003.

This growth has occurred on both sides of the department: Political Science is up from 4 to 16 graduates; History from 4 to 7; and the Social Science major has remained steady at 5 (1996) and 6 (2003).

(See attached Appendix 5 for student enrollment, and Appendix 3 for graduation and placement statistics since 1996.)

In addition, significant changes in the departmental offerings and strong recruiting from Political Science faculty has attracted students to that major. The number of History and Social Science majors has also increased and stabilized since 1996.

The following review will address faculty, curriculum, and student programs with special emphasis on changes implemented since 1996.

I.1 Faculty

The department has four full time historians, two full time Political Scientists, and one-part time Political Scientist. Two full-time and one part-time faculty have been added to the department since 1996.

By December 2004, all faculty in the department will have the Ph.D.

The diverse faculty members of the department (Appendix 1 for faculty CVs) give this department an unusually high record in service, teaching excellence, and faculty research.

Faculty service

Faculty in this department are exceptionally active in research and campus service. Indeed, the extent of faculty contribution to the PLNU campus and their fields is, we believe, the greatest strength of this department.

On the Political Science side of the department, Professor Ron Kirkemo developed the Institute of Politics and Public Service and the annual student research conference for Political Science undergraduates (held every spring). Dr. Linda Beail developed and directs the Women's Studies Center and the Women's Studies minor for the entire PLNU Campus. Kevin Archer has contributed to the international curriculum within the department and works as Associate Director of the PLNU international studies center.

On the history side, Dr. Rick Kennedy leads the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and the Faculty Science and Theology Discussion Group. Dwayne Little directs the Pre Law program. Diana Reynolds has been involved in developing the PLNU Euroterm program. Professor Bill Wood receives the highest possible student evaluations for teaching excellence within the department.

Faculty Research

Given the extent of Faculty involvement in campus service and in teaching, faculty research and contribution to their fields is extraordinarily strong. Since 1996 faculty in this department have published 2 books (Kirkemo, Kennedy), finished 3 book manuscripts (Reynolds and Kennedy), and 2 book chapters (Kennedy), Faculty have published 9 Articles, 5 book reviews and presented at 23 conferences. For only 5 full time faculty, this is a remarkable set of statistics.

Another indicator of the depth of faculty research is the impressive accumulation of grants garnered by faculty since 1996: Two faculty in this department have been selected as Wesleyan Center Fellows; two have received Wesleyan Center Summer Research Grants. In addition, faculty have received

- 1 Alumni Grant,
- 5 RASP grants,
- 1 William J. Fulbright Foreign Scholarship
- 1 National Endowment for the Humanities Grant.

The Women's Studies Center participated in the Lilly Grant Round during 2002, and the Department hosted the Biannual Conference on Faith and History in the Fall of 2001.

Adjunct faculty

In addition, the department regularly hires adjuncts to serve the General Education World Civilizations I and II (HIS 110 and 111) requirements. Since 1997, adjuncts have covered an average of 4 sections per semester (8 per year) to meet enrollment needs for this course.

Adjunct hiring has been as follows:

1999-00 1

2000-01 2

2001-02 3

2002-03 3

2003-04 2 (one at 75%) (See Appendix 1 for Adjunct faculty coverage information)

In addition to the enrollment pressures for adjunct coverage, Faculty teaching release time for the Women's Studies Center, Special book projects, Euroterm, sabbaticals, or Wesleyan Center Fellowships require regular additional adjuncts. Indeed, the high level of faculty activity, which shows no signs of decreasing in the next five years, is likely to cause additional needs for adjunct coverage.

I.2 Curriculum

Political Science

In the fall of 1999, the political science faculty conducted an extensive curricular review of their major. We surveyed all course offerings in three types of universities: CCCU schools with well-established political science programs (Gordon, Wheaton, and Calvin); excellent liberal arts colleges of a similar size to PLNU (Oberlin, Carleton); and major research universities with the best-ranked and most cutting-edge programs in political science (Michigan, UCSD, and Yale). From this survey, we determined which courses are most offered, which are most often required to graduate, and which areas of political science are normally covered by the major. We then compared our curriculum to this baseline, and adjusted our courses accordingly. APC and the faculty approved our subsequent curricular changes in spring 2000. Both faculty and students are pleased with the more balanced coverage of the field and more streamlined organization of the major.

History

The history side of the department offers diverse and extensive service on the campus. Aside from its own major and minor, it also administers and supplies most of the classes to the Social Science major. The History department also supplies classes required by the state for the university's Liberal Studies major. Aside from serving three majors and a minor, the History department has an extensive obligation to General Education with 50% of each faculty's load devoted

to World Civilizations classes. Extensive adjunct support is required for this service.

Our 1996 Departmental Review noted the lack of qualified faculty to teach Latin American or Mexican history. This omission remains along with other large geographical and chronological holes in the department's coverage of what is traditionally expected of a history department and what is increasingly expected by the state to serve Social Science and Liberal Studies majors. Given the already approved increase of .25fte to serve the Liberal Studies program along with the large number of adjuncts serving GE, we believe that the hiring of another faculty position is justified and easily accounted for.

The History department also takes seriously the breadth of its service to the youngest students at PLNU in the GE program. It has long advocated for smaller classes so that first and second year students can be known and helped by their professors. Basic reading, writing, and thinking skills cannot be taught well to such large classes.

I.3. Student programs

The faculty in the HPS department serves a variety of student programs that have been created since 1996. These include
 The Margaret Stevenson Center for Women's Studies
 PSAF – Political Science Alumni
 Institute for Politics and Public Service
 Phi Alpha Theta International History Honor Society
 Conference for Faith and History

Detailed information on these Departmental programs can be found in Appendix 2

I.4. Physical space and equipment.

Since the completion of Colt Hall in 1998, the HPS department enjoys an up to date physical space and excellent equipment. The building receives heavy use, as the Colt Hall Forum is a beautiful site for meetings and receptions. The details of building upkeep are a major part of the Department Assistant's duties.

I. 5. Students:

Since 1996, the department has graduated approximately 25 students per year, with approximately an equal spread between the three undergraduate majors.

The number of Political Science majors has increased dramatically through active recruitment by Professor Kirkemo in recent years; there are currently 72 students enrolled in the Political Science major.

Professors Kirkemo and Reynolds are active as grant recruiters and advisers. Their efforts have helped to place 4 students in Fulbright Grants and 3 in NSEP grants.

Student placement in post-graduate programs and prestigious grants is strong. Student placements reflect the increasing strengths of the teaching and mentoring within the department. See Appendix 3 for a list of student placements since 1996.

I.6. Colt Endowment

The Clara Colt Endowment to assist the department programs will be a tremendous asset to the HPS department in the coming years. Although the precise figures are still unclear, we anticipate that this funding will allow the department to not only grant more student scholarships, but to also aggressively develop new program initiatives to serve students.

II. Action taken since last review

The Departmental Review of 1996 included several recommendations by outside reviewers that included the following items:

1. The addition of two full time Historians to cover World Civilizations teaching loads.

One full time historian (Reynolds) was added in 1998; nevertheless, adjunct coverage in World Civilizations remains high, ranging between 25-30% per year, depending upon other faculty issues. See Appendix 5 for enrollment information for World Civilizations Courses.

2. The addition of one Latin American historian.

Observers in 1996 described this as a "glaring" omission, given our geographical location.

This objective has not yet been accomplished.

3. The addition of a part time faculty Political Scientist to cover American institutions.

This was not done. An additional part time faculty was added, but with an International Relations emphasis. Given Dr. Beail's course load reduction for the

Women's Studies Center, the addition of a Political Scientist for American institutions is even more important than it was in 1996.

5. The transfer of the Social Sciences major to the Education department.

Observers at the time noted the departmental ambivalence with this major. This issue has since been resolved. This department recognizes and accepts the responsibility for training future teachers in this major; faculty are making every effort to make this an important part of our department.

III. Assessment plan

In 2002, the HPS department assessment plan was submitted to the assessment committee and approved. For each major, assessment goals involving exit interviews and student responses were formulated. In the Fall of 2003 we will begin data collection. The assessment documents can be found in Appendix 4

IV. Future goals and directions:

Faculty discussions have generated seven areas of strength and related weakness. These are mostly related to staffing issues and can only be resolved in conversation with administration.

1. Dynamic active faculty engaged in program development, research, service, and student advising creates strain on staffing and course load issues.
2. Growth of the Political Science major is likely to require additional faculty.
3. Inadequate coverage of American politics in the Political Science major should be addressed in the near future.
4. Ongoing faculty participation in Semester abroad initiatives and international education remains a high priority in this department; this could create additional staffing issues on an irregular basis. The department gives its enthusiastic support to all initiatives for international education.
5. Coverage of Latin American history and African history remains inadequate..
6. Administrators will need to address the problem of serving Liberal Studies majors by increasing departmental FTEs to meet this teaching load.

7. Ongoing coverage of World Civilizations sections by adjunct faculty and the ongoing issue of class size in General Education sections.

IV. Responses to the issues listed above

1. In keeping with our established pattern of growth, the HPS department hopes to increase the number of total majors in this department by 2009 to 100 Political Science majors, History majors to 65, and Social Science to 35.

2. Staffing

In order to ensure a broadly based, high quality curriculum, the HPS department would like to add two full time faculty members by 2009; one in history and one in Political Science.

A. History Staffing needs will be based on the issues related to campus service (GE, Liberal Studies) as well as international coverage discussed above. We anticipate that, in the short term, growth in the major and quality service to the PLNU community will be best served by the addition of a Latin American historian for the following reasons.

1. Class sizes and course rotations are distributed unequally between faculty. Repeat courses in US history and Historical Methods create 5 preps in two years for one American historian. Other faculty teach 6 upper divisions in two years. At the same time, extra courses in European history create a total of 8 upper division offerings in European history with resulting smaller class sizes for Dr. Reynolds. Thus the "non Western" teaching load currently held by only one faculty member (Professor Bill Wood) creates a 6 course rotation with unusually large enrollments; a unique burden for this instructor. While others teach classes of fluctuating sizes over time, enrollments for the non western requirements remain high.

2. Finding ways to address the projected .25% fte increase (30 April 2003 faculty meeting) projected for the History side of the department will become an important priority that must be resolved in dialogue with administration. This will create further disparity in terms of course rotation and enrollment loads for US History faculty.

2.B. Political Science staffing needs are based on current student statistics and anticipated growth.

1. Forty-seven percent of our graduates in the past five years have gone into careers in public service and public affairs. Because of that, the curriculum needs to serve them better and be augmented with additional

courses in American politics and some professional-related courses such as a public administration course, which was eliminated earlier, and a skills-based course such as a Model UN course of 1 or 2 units.

2. The program retains its goal of 100 majors, which will likely be reached within two years and will support additional faculty load in the future to support those new American politics courses.

3 Colt Funds.

A high priority is to develop a clear overview of the Colt Funds that will become available in the coming years and to formulate decisions about the use of those funds. The faculty agree that the highest priority for these funds is to begin initiatives that will contribute to student programs. These could include, but are not limited to:

- additional scholarship funds
- travel and study abroad opportunities
- institutes and curricular improvements for both sides of the department
- visiting scholars
- faculty/student research projects
- release time for faculty/student initiatives

The faculty believes very strongly that it is important that these funds should be handled in an open and transparent manner in dialogue with the Business Office. This has not yet happened.

4 The HPS department is happy to serve as the home to the Pre Law Program, and wishes it to become an increasingly strong and vital campus wide association. The issue of departmental service (administrative support) for Pre Law and Women's studies Center creates an extra load on the administrative assistant. Finding ways to address this is an issue for the department chair in consultation with administration.

5 The International Studies Major

The department has agreed to begin discussions about developing a new International Studies Major designed to provide training for students who anticipate careers in government, humanitarian agencies, NGOs, missions, tourism, and travel. This would combine existing courses on both sides of the department and would not involve a staffing increase. An important component of this program would be required participation in a Study Abroad program and would contribute to the campus mission of increased global awareness.

This major is consistent with the profound commitment to International Education exhibited by the entire department. In its support for international and off campus programs, the HPS department feels that it is uniquely qualified to take the lead in creating a major that will reflect the strengths of its faculty and contribute to the internationalization of PLNU.

Table of Contents

HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Student Programs
3. Graduate Statistics
4. Assessment Plans
5. Enrollment Information