Program Review Report

Yuba Community College District

YC - Political Science Program Recommendations

Program Description: The Political Science program at Yuba College continues to offer POLSC-1 (American Government), online Polsc-1, and Polsc-7 (International Relations).
In the year of 2011-2012, three Polsc-1 sections were removed and only ten sections were offered. The number of students? email inquiries regarding adding and enrollment in Polsc-1 has dramatically increased, thus we can conclude that student demand is not being met by supply and student anxiety has significantly risen.

In Fall 2012, an additional Polsc-1 online ITV class was added to provide for students with commuting problems. Furthermore, two additional Polsc-1 classes were offered at the newly opened Sutter Center in Fall 2012. The addition of the two classes and one ITV class has increased supply to meet student demand and the enrollments overall are robust. There were still many students? email requests to add into Polsc-1 online class.

For Polsc-7, enrollment has consistently reached the class cap and retention rates are consistently high (94% in 2010-2011 and 91.3% in 2011-2012).

In general, enrollment in the Polsc Program is strong. 398 students enrolled across 12 Polsc sections offered in 2011-2012 and the WSCH/FTEF was 509.75. All Polsc-1 and Polsc-7 sections have consistently reached their enrollment caps before instruction even begins each semester.

(*Note: Data for Polsc-6 Political Philosophy between 2009-2012 was not available in PoliSci TracDat and therefore no analysis can be done for it.)

Lena Hsieh is considering the feasibility of adding a California Politics course and/or a Comparative Politics course in the future. This consideration will factor in the transition to the TMC (Transfer Model Curriculum) as stated in SB 1440.
Training: Lena Hsieh has furthered her professional growth by updating her knowledge with upper-division courses in CSU-Sacramento in Summer 2012 and attended the ISA (International Studies Association) 2012 Annual Conference. This has updated her knowledge on CA politics, cultural diversity, and international relations.

Staffing: Polisci FTEF peaked at 1.70 in 2008-9 but was cut to 1.40 in 2010-2011 and down to 1.2 in 2011-2012. In Fall 2012, three additional adjunct instructors were hired to offer four more sections for Beale, Sutter, and online-ITV classes.
Equipment and Facilities: The opening of the Sutter Center has added more classrooms and therefore, Polsc classes were able to be offered at the Sutter Center in addition to the 3000 Building. The instructional equipment and learning facilities have been improved, as well. However, if any class is moved back to the 500 building, then some facility issues must be solved before that.

Year of Review: 2012-2013
Type of Review: Annual Update
Executive Summary: Significant changes in the program since the last program review or annual update include:

a. PoliSci AA degree: A proposal to offer a Political Science AA degree was approved by Yuba College Curriculum

Committee in February 2011. Lena Hsieh has followed up by submitting Form CCC-501 in Fall 2011 for state approval. Currently, that process has been halted because Lena Hsieh is working on aligning the Polsc-AA degree with the TMC under SB 1440.

b. Class reductions and demand: Budget cuts and the subsequent reductions in classes offered continue to affect this program in 2011-2012 during which only 12 Polsc sections were offered compared to 14 sections in 2010-2011 and 18 sections in 2009-2010. Demand has severely outstripped supply. In spite of the additions of one Polsc-1 ITV class and two Polsc-1 classes in the Sutter Center in Fall 2012, demand continues to be strong as shown by the full enrollments before semester starts and by the number of email requests for enrollment/adding Polsc classes, particularly the Polsc-1 online and online-ITV class.

c. Online technology: Lena Hsieh began Polsc-1 web-enhanced classes in Spring 2010 as a learning tool to improve student retention and success rates. A fully on-line Polsc-1 course was offered at Yuba College for the first time beginning Spring 2011. This is the fourth semester for the online course and student demand is robust. More online sections for POLSC-1 should be considered in the future. In Fall 2012, one Polsc-1 online ITV class was added for students interested in this method of instruction.

d. SLO: The SLOs of all Political Science courses (Polsc-1 and Polsc-7) have been submitted and SLO data were collected for the first time in the Spring 2011 semester.

Future Goals and Program Direction:

Curriculum and Program Direction

a. The department takes the TMC under SB 1440 as a high priority and has started to process it.

b. Course Diversities: To further diversify Polsc courses, the possibility and feasibility of offering other Polsc courses (e.g. comparative politics, political theory, or California government) may be explored in the future.

c. The Polsc-1 online and ITV classes should be offered continuously because the enrollments for both are strong. More online Polsc-1 classes can be offered in the future to address strong student demand.

Curriculum & SLO Assessment Summary :

SLO: The SLOs for all Political Science course have been discussed and established by Polsc full-time and adjunct faculty members. The SLO tests for two Polsc-1 classes in Spring 2011 and one Polsc-7 in Spring 2012 were conducted. The results were analyzed and found ?distraction? is a strong factor detrimental to the learning process. The Poslc-1 class without ?distractions? performed significantly better than the other. The result also suggested that Polsc-7 is a more difficult class than Polsc-1. The instructor will work on improving the success rate for Polsc-7 even though the retention rates were high (reaching 90%) in general. This may imply that students enjoy Polsc-7 and thus were willing to stay in the class to the end but had more difficulty in mastering the more abstract theories.

Recommendations	Plans of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
YC - Political Science Program Recommendations - New Hire - Because Political Science 1 is a requirement for transfer it appears that additional courses need to be added beyond the adjunct pool	**Plan of Action:** Submitting to VP **Type:** Staffing - Faculty		

Recommendations	Plans of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
we currently have. Therefore, it appears another fulltime instructor can be added to accommodate student needs. **Year(s) Requested:** 2013-2014 **Request Date:** 05/01/2014	**Budgetary Impact:** $100,000		
YC - Political Science Program Recommendations - Staffing for Polsc-1 - This program needs to recruit more faculty members to address strong student demand. If budget is limited, at least more adjunct instructors should be hired to teach Polsc-1 classes. **Year(s) Requested:** 2010-2011 **Request Date:** 02/03/2012 **Recommendation Priority:** 3. High Priority **Supporting Evidence (SLO, WSCH, etc.):** Polisci FTEF peaked at 1.70 in 2008-9 but was cut to 1.40 in 2010-2011 due to statewide budget problems. Many students have expressed their anxiety and frustration about not being able to enroll in Polsc-1 due to their limited supply. and thus delay their graduation.	**Plan of Action:** The Social Science Division can start to recruit more adjunct instructors. **Type:** Staffing - Faculty **Budgetary Impact:** About 0.2 to 0.4 FTEF.		
YC - Political Science Program Recommendations - Equipment - The computer equipment in the 500 Building is out of date. Room 522 still uses a traditional monitor and Room 512's PC crashes often while showing instructional media. The current LCD TV screens are too small to project PowerPoint slides effectively in rooms 513 and 512. **Year(s) Requested:** 2010-2011	**Plan of Action:** A request has been made in Fall 2011 to the Distributive Education & Media Services and Dean Martha Mills has promised to find fund to change the old computer in Room 522. Dean Davis of Social Science Division also approved the budget for Polsc-1 educational films and thus internet crashes on online videos can be avoided. **Type:** Equipment/Technology		

Recommendations	Plans of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
Request Date: 02/03/2012 **Recommendation Priority:** 3. High Priority **Supporting Evidence (SLO, WSCH, etc.):** The computers crash often while showing instructional media and thus disrupt the flow of instruction.			
YC - Political Science Program Recommendations - Facilities - Repairs to the A/C unit and heater for the 500 Building can no longer be postponed. **Year(s) Requested:** 2010-2011 **Request Date:** 02/03/2012 **Recommendation Priority:** 3. High Priority **Supporting Evidence (SLO, WSCH, etc.):** Too often in summer and even autumn, room 522 was so hot that the instructor had no choice but to end class and dismiss students early in order to prevent any heat-health-related problems. In the winter, the rooms in the 500 Building are over-heated and thus several students reported nausea or sickness.	**Plan of Action:** Several requests have been made to the Maintenance but the problems remain. And the Measure J Bond remodeling budget for 500 Building is also suspended. **Type:** Facilities		
YC - Political Science Program Recommendations - Online Class - One more Polsc-1 online class can be offered to meet student demand. **Year(s) Requested:** 2010-2011 **Request Date:** 02/03/2012 **Recommendation Priority:** 2. Medium Priority **Supporting Evidence (SLO, WSCH, etc.):**			

Recommendations	Plans of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
There were many emails from students requesting to add into the Polsc-1 online class after it was full.			
YC - Political Science Program Recommendations - Curriculum - Addition of Polsci Major - Yuba College should consider offering a Political Science AA degree. A proposal to offer a Political Science AA degree was approved by Yuba College Curriculum Committee in February 2011. Lena Hsieh has followed up by submitting the CCC-501 form. **Request Date:** 02/03/2012 **Recommendation Priority:** 1. Low Priority **Supporting Evidence (SLO, WSCH, etc.):** Yuba College and Woodland Community College currently do not have a political science major. Political Science courses encourage active political participation and promote democracy. A Political Science major prepares students for a diverse array of jobs and careers as well as transfer to 4-year institutions, especially CSU Sacramento, Chico and UC Davis, all of which have significant political science programs. Yuba College already offers all required and elective courses for Political Science AA degree.	**Plan of Action:** The full-time faculty will follow up necessary paper works after the CCC-501 form being approved. **Type:** Curriculum/SLO **Budgetary Impact:** No significant budgetary impact.		
YC - Political Science Program Recommendations - Curriculum - More POLSC courses can be offered to diversify students' choices and to further align with TMC. **Year(s) Requested:** 2011-2012			

Recommendations	Plans of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
Request Date: 10/07/2012 **Supporting Evidence (SLO, WSCH, etc.):** Students are highly interested in California Politics but Comparative Politics is aligned with TMC on List A.			