Assessment: Assessment Unit Planning

Program Review 2014-15

YC - Political Science Program Review

Year Under Review : 2014-15
Type of Review: Annual Update
Program Description : The Political Science program at Yuba College, Sutter Center, and the Clear Lake Campus supports the YCCD mission and college goals by offering the ADT/TMC degree and the following three courses: POLSC-1: Introduction to American Government, POLSC-7: International Relations, and POLSC-6: Political Philosophy.

This Political Science program supports the following YCCD mission and college goals:
- YCCD VS 1 4. Prepare students with the necessary skills and information to succeed in the workforce and society at-large, including critical and analytical thinking skills.
- YCCD VS 4 5. Expose students to the rich contributions various racial and ethnic groups have made to American society, politics, culture, and economic development.
- YCCD VS 4 6. Satisfy the Social Science and Multicultural Graduation Requirements.
- YC Goal 5 7. Provide students with a variety of courses that fulfill the requirements for transfer eligibility to a four-year college/university.

Lena Hsieh has been working with the Curriculum Committee and Lani Aguinaldo to create the Political Science ADT/TMC degree for years. In Spring 2015, this degree was finally approved by the State of California and students can start to benefit from it. For that, Hsieh has also worked with Peter Skillman to create a few web pages under YC Political Science Department to introduce this degree and relevant career sources.
The paperwork to establish the Political Science AA degree (local degree) has also been submitted to the State of California for approval. In the past year, to facilitate the two degrees, Hsieh has been working with the Curriculum Committee to remove the barriers to the course curriculum, including: solving the cross-link issue on Phil-6/Polsc-6 and re-aligning Polsc-6 and Polsc-7 course outlines with the C-ID curriculum.

- YC Goal 9 1. Prepare students with an introduction to politics and government.
- YC Goal 9 2. Prepare students for responsible citizenship.
- YC Goal 9 3. Introduce students to a variety of civic experiences.

Lena Hsieh has looked into the possibility of creating two new courses, Comparative Politics and California Politics to diversify our course offerings for this program.

Enrollments
In general, enrollment in the program is strong and WSCH per FTEF for each year ranges between 877 and 1018. 23 sections were offered in 2014-2015, the highest number in the past five years and enrollments on Census Day also reached the highest to 677 which was 120 more than the year before, reaching 29 students per section. (Note that the data/calculation of the fill rates provided may have errors as the same errors happened on data for History and Psychology.)
Executive Summary (Include a list of team members): Team members: Full-time faculty Lena Li-Chiuan Hsieh, Adjunct professor Salvador Tolentino, and Dean Walter Masuda
01IP. Department Goals (Click '?' for Prompt): 1. Prepare students with an introduction to politics and government.
2. Promote students' engagement with politics at local, domestic, and international levels.
3. Train students to be critical and analytical thinkers by exposing them to diverse political perspectives.
4. Expose students to the rich contributions and cultures from diverse groups that compose American society.
5. Offer courses to satisfy the Social Science and Multicultural Graduation requirements at Yuba College.
6. Offer YC AA degree and the ADT/TMC degree to facilitate students' transfer to the CSU or UC system.
02IP. Access to Support Services (Click '?' for Prompt): -Office Hours, -DSPS, -Library Services, -Counseling Services, -Other

03IP. Follow up to question 02IP (Click '?' for Prompt): All students have equitable access to the support services:
1) Canvas Online Teaching Platform: Canvas serves as the major learning platform for online classes and also for web enhanced classes (e.g. Polsc-1 and Polsc-7). Even though there are occasional technical problems, overall, students are able to access it without a problem, including students with special needs.
2) College Success Center: Lena Hsieh has worked with the College Success Center to provide free tutors for students.
3) Writing Center: Students can access the Writing Center to learn how to compose a term paper with academic citation formats.
4) Library: Students can also use YC library, including its databases, to conduct their research.
5) DSPS: Students can go to the DSPS for special accommodations and help. Political Science instructors give special accommodations to special students in need and provide online materials in different formats to make them equally accessible to the students. We have successfully helped hearing impaired students, visual impaired students, and other special students in the past five years by providing instructional materials in braille, closed captioning, audio books, exam accommodations, etc.
04IP. Degrees/Certificates (Click '?' for Prompt): The political science ADT/TMC degree was newly established in Spring 2015 and therefore the number of degrees awarded is not available at least until Spring 2017.
However, Political Science courses support other programs, such as History, Social Science, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science, etc. For instance, the Social and Behavioral Sciences has awarded 119 AA degrees which are significantly more than the 69 degrees granted in 2010-11. Moreover, two Social Science AA degrees are awarded in the same year.
05IP. Improve Completion (Click '?' for Prompt): First, the Political Science ADT/TMC degree was created to facilitate students' seamless transfer into the CSU system.
Second, Lena Hsieh continues to utilize the online platform Canvas to provide learning tools/resources and this has tremendously raised students' retention rates as well as success rates.
Moreover, political science tutors are provided each semester in our College Success Center to facilitate improving retention and success rates.
Lastly, Lena Hsieh changed two Polsc-1 textbooks in the past two years to cut students' cost on buying books. The statistics showed the co-relation to students' success rate which is up 2.25%, reaching 75%
Among all campuses in the past five years, Beale has the highest success rate, reaching over 90% whereas the main campus has the lowest rate around 70%, all above our college average.
06IP. Course Outlines (Click '?' for Prompt): Yes. All course outlines are updated. Polsc-1 was updated in 2012, Polsc-6 and Polsc-7 in 2014.
07IP. Collaboration (Click '?' for Prompt): 1. College Success Center: Lena Hsieh has worked with the College Success Center to provide free tutors each semester for students since 2008.
2. Writing Center: Students can access the Writing Center to seek additional assistance on how to compose their research essays/papers with academic citation and paper formats.
3. Library: Students can also use the YC library to do their research essays/papers by utilizing its search engines, and using its databases of newspapers, periodicals, etc. Hsieh has also requested instructional videos to demonstrate to students how to do research.
4. DSPS: Political Science instructors have been collaborating with the DSPS center where students can ask for special accommodations and help.
08IP. Catalog Currency (Click '?' for Prompt): Lena Hsieh has just updated the catalog with the new ADT/TMC degree in 2014-15. Two courses, not taught for more than two years, have been deactivated, including: Polsc-40R and Foreign Affairs. Polsc-40R Parliamentary Procedure was deactivated because there has been no qualified instructors to teach it. The course Foreign Affairs has also been deactivated because this course has been made redundant with Polsc-7 International Relations.
09IP. For CTE Programs Only (Click '?' for Prompt): (N/A)
10IP. DE Students (Click '?' for Prompt): The effectiveness of DE instruction has been evaluated by analyzing emails, feedback and Canvas Inbox communications, retention rates, success rates, and students' assessments to monitor if there are any learning issues and problems.
11IP.Disproportionate Impact(Click '?' for Prompt): The success rates for different ethnic groups, ranking from high to low, are: Asian, Whites, Hispanics, Filipinos, American Indians, and then African Americans. The gap between Asians and African Americans is more than 20%. Instructors will continue to work on bridging this gap by using the strategies addressed in question 05IP.
12IP. Mapping (Click '?' for Prompt): Yes
13IP. Course SLOs (Click '?' for Prompt): The CSLOs for all three political science courses have been developed and accessed since 2011. Lena Hsieh has met both Political Science adjuncts Daniel Sorensen and Salvador Tolentino to discuss the SLOs as well as CSLOs and to ensure their understanding and continuous implementation of CSLOs.

In general, Polsc-1 students reached about 70% - 86% rates of passing the CSLOs, Polsc-7 about 50% - 76%, and Polsc-6 at 69%. Even though all CSLOs were met, instructors concluded that:

First, affordable textbooks would help students' success. Thus, Lena Hsieh changed her Polsc-1 textbook to an affordable publisher/edition in 2013 to BVT and in 2015 again to a better textbook published by Oxford while still remaining affordable. Second, preparing students to be more familiar with the CSLOs can help increase CSLOs. In addition, class schedules are co-related to CSLOs. Early morning classes and three-hour one-class seem to have lower SLOs. Hsieh will continue to keep track of the statistics/data to find any patterns and to address SLOs issues.

14IP. Program SLOs (Click '?' for Prompt): The PSLOs have also been established since April 2014, which are mapped with each CSLOs and are designed to cultivate students' critical thinking, social responsibility, communication, information competency, and global awareness. They include:

1) Students can distinguish major political theories and/or political concepts.
2) Students can identify the political structure of major governing bodies.
3) Students can analyze the opposing arguments of major political issues.
4) Students can identify social, political, and/or economic forces necessary to establish a certain political order.

Polsc-1 accessed #2 SLO, and Polsc-7 as well as Polsc-6 conducted #1. Considering each course reached 50% to 85% passing rates of its CSLOs, therefore, the PSLOs are maintained.

In addition, Hsieh has mapped the PSLOs with the Institutional SLOs in Fall 2015. Political Science will schedule all the PSLOs to be accessed in a cycle.

15IP. Professional Development (Click '?' for Prompt): Political Science faculty has furthered their professional growth by:

1) Crossing Borders and Building Bridges (CBBB) multi-cultural event series: To promote diversity, Hsieh not only attended the even series but also gave a speech "Israel and Palestine: Is Peace Possible?" in Oct. 2014.
2) Diversity Theater: Also to promote diversity, Hsieh was the coordinator of the Diversity Theater which produced six events. However, Diversity Theater was unable to be sustained due to lack of stable funding and clerical support.
3) CurricuNet workshops: Hsieh has processed ADT/TMC degree and solved the cross-listing issues on Phil-6/Polsc-6. The latter task facilitated the establishment of local Yuba College AA Degree in political science.
4) Sabbatical Leave Workshop in both Fall 2014 and Fall 2015.
5) Flex Tracking/WebAdvisor workshop in Fall 2015
6) EEO training in Fall 2013 and Fall 2015.
7) Canvas (online learning platform) workshop on Fall, 2014
8) "How Do Brains Work?" speech which emphasized post-birth effort, not pre-birth smartness.

16IP. Reflection (Click '?' for Prompt): Based on this program review report, the Political Science faculty will continue to implement SLOs, and cooperate with the Student Services department to provide quality education. Political Science faculty will also try to work with relevant departments to solve the following issues:

1) Adjunct faculty hiring: Currently, there is no instructor to teach Beale classes. YCCD needs to hire one more part-time Political Science instructor to diversify the courses offered, particularly after the establishment of the TMC/ADT degree, which will make this program more competitive if new faculty can teach Polsc-6, California Politics, and/or Comparative Politics.

2) Facility improvement: Some students complained about the 3000 Building's loud A/C units, "smelly," "shabby," and "stuffy" portable classrooms, small desk surface, etc. If the district has the available budget, remodeling the 500 Building can solve these problems.

3) Equipment: Need a portable whiteboard in room 3004 where many students cannot see the whiteboard because the big projector screen blocks most of the board surface. Scrolling up and down the screen disrupts and slows down the instruction.

4) Curriculum and Course Offering:
   a) Polsc-6: Polsc-6 should be offered no later than Fall 2016 because this department should offer all required courses in a two-year cycle and this cycle started from Spring 2015.
   b) More Course Options: More POLSC courses, such as California Politics and/or Comparative Politics, can be offered to diversify students' choices and to further align with TMC/ADT.
   c) Enrollments: Based on the email requests from students in Fall 2015, online POLSC-1 courses should be offered continuously to meet demand. Overall, online enrollments have increased and the sections offered grew from the first and only one in 2010-11 to eight sections in 2014-15.

Are you ready to submit your final program review?: Yes

Program Recommendation: New Adjunct Hire

YC - Political Science Program Review

YCCD needs to hire one more part-time Political Science instructor to diversify the courses offered, particularly after the establishment of the TMC/ADT degree, which will make this program more competitive if new faculty can teach Polsc-6, California Politics, and/or Comparative Politics.

Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2015-2016
Request Date: 10/09/2015
Supporting Evidence : There are 667 students enrolled in 23 Political Science sections in 2014-15. Students' demand is strong. The Student/Faculty ratio remains high at 29.49. Moreover, there is no instructor to teach Beale classes.

Evaluation Plan: Lena Hsieh is working with Dean Masuda to solve this problem.

Plan of Action

Staffing - Faculty - Submitting to VP (Active)
Budgetary Impact: $100,000

Status

04/09/2013

Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Addressed/Satisfactory Progress
Present to faculty staffing committee

Staffing - Faculty - Hiring more part-time instructors (Active)
Budgetary Impact: Estimated budget: $4,500 X 2 classes = $9,000
The funding from CA state should be able to cover the budget increase with surplus.
Timeline/Responsible Party: In one year/ Lena Hsieh will work with Dean Walter Masuda.
YC - Location: Yuba College - All

Related Goals

College - Yuba College Program Review
YC Goal 5 - Design our programs in such a way as to allow students to complete their educational goals in a timely manner.

Institutional Learning Outcomes
Critical Thinking - Analyze data/information in addressing and evaluating problems and issues in making decisions.
Personal and Social Responsibility - Interact with others by demonstrating respect for opinions, feelings, and values.

YC - Political Science Program Review
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YC Goal 9 - 3. Introduce students to a variety of civic experiences.
YCCD VS 1 - 4. Prepare students with the necessary skills and information to succeed in the workforce and society at-large, including critical and analytical thinking skills.
YCCD VS 4 - 5. Expose students to the rich contributions various racial and ethnic groups have made to American society, politics, culture, and economic development.
YCCD VS 4 - 6. Satisfy the Social Science and Multicultural Graduation Requirements.
YC Goal 5 - 7. Provide students with a variety of courses that fulfill the requirements for transfer eligibility to a four-year college/university.

Program Recommendation: Curriculum and Course Offering

YC - Political Science Program Review

a) Polsc-6: Polsc-6 should be offered no later than Fall 2016 because this department should offer all required courses in a two-year cycle and this cycle started from Spring 2015.

b) More Course Options: More POLSC courses, such as California Politics and/or Comparative Politics, can be offered to diversify students' choices and to further align with TMC/ADT.

c) Enrollments: Based on the email requests from students in Fall 2015, online POLSC-1 courses should be offered continuously to meet demand. Overall, online enrollments have increased and the sections offered grew from the first and only one in 2010-11 to eight sections in 2014-15.

Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2015-2016
Request Date: 10/09/2015
Supporting Evidence : (See Program Recommendation in the above.)
Evaluation Plan: Lena Hsieh will apply a sabbatical leave which will allow her to focus on improving the curriculum and course offering.

Plan of Action

Curriculum/SLO - The full-time faculty will follow up necessary paper works after the CCC-501 form being approved. (Active)

Budgetary Impact: No significant budgetary impact.

Status

Reporting Year: 2013-2014 11/27/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Achieved/Completed
Completed.

Curriculum/SLO - a) Lena Hsieh has worked with Salvador Tolentino to schedule a Polsc-6 class in Fall 2016.

b) Lena Hsieh is applying a sabbatical leave which will allow her uninterrupted time to create and prepare the two new courses: California Politics and/or Comparative Politics, which then will be incorporate into TMC/ADT degree to strengthen the program. (Active)

Budgetary Impact: If a sabbatical leave is granted to Lena Hsieh, then there will be estimated $36,000 temporary budget increase for one year to pay par-timers.
Timeline/Responsible Party: Fall 2016 ~ Spring 2017 if the sabbatical leave is granted./Lena Hsieh

YC - Location: Yuba College - All

Status

Reporting Year: 2015-2016 11/27/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Addressed/Satisfactory Progress
In progress.

Related Goals

YC - Political Science Program Review
YC Goal 9 - 1. Prepare students with an introduction to politics and government.
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YC - Political Science Program Review

YC Goal 5 - 7. Provide students with a variety of courses that fulfill the requirements for transfer eligibility to a four-year college/university.

Program Recommendation: Classroom Facility

If the district has the available budget, remodeling the 500 Building can solve some facility problems in the 3000 Building.

Or, at least changing the door locks, and providing more safety kits and training can better protect students and faculty.

Replacing the current old chairs/tables and providing outdoor chairs/tables can improve the situation.

Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2015-2016
Request Date: 10/09/2015
Supporting Evidence : Some students complained about the 3000 Building's loud A/C units, "smelly," "shabby," and "stuffy" portable classrooms, small desk surface, etc.

Moreover, regarding safety issues, several classrooms in the 3000 Building do not allow instructors to lock from inside. With only one door in and out in each classroom, it raises the concern about active shooters.

Evaluation Plan: The instructor will continue to observe students' responses to the facility.

Plan of Action

Facilities - This situation has been reported to VP and the Safety Committee. They are working with the Maintenance to address the safety issues, including changing door locks. However, the stuffy situation due to locked windows still exists. (Active)

YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Facilities - 1. Lena Hsieh has reported the problems in her program review in Oct. 2015.
2. The safety issues has been reported to the college VP who is coordinating different departments to address this issue. (Active)

YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Status

Reporting Year: 2015-2016 11/27/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Addressed/Satisfactory Progress
In progress.

Related Goals

YC - Political Science Program Review
YC Goal 9 - 1. Prepare students with an introduction to politics and government.
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YCCD VS 4 - 6. Satisfy the Social Science and Multicultural Graduation Requirements.

YC - Political Science Program Review

YC Goal 5 - 7. Provide students with a variety of courses that fulfill the requirements for transfer eligibility to a four-year college/university.

Program Recommendation: Equipment

Room 3004 needs a portable whiteboard.

Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2015-2016
Request Date: 10/09/2015
Supporting Evidence : Many students cannot see the whiteboard with the big projector screen blocking most of the board surface. Scrolling up and down the screen disrupts and slows down the instruction.
Evaluation Plan: The instructor will continue to monitor students' retention rates and success rates.

Plan of Action

Equipment - Lena Hsieh has requested a white board to her Dean. (Active)
Budgetary Impact: Estimated $150 to $250.
YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Status

Reporting Year: 2015-2016 11/27/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention
In progress.

Related Goals

YC - Political Science Program Review
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