Online Assessment Tracking Database

Sam Houston State University (SHSU) 2014 - 2015

Political Science, Department Of

Goal

Faculty Research P

Faculty in the department of political science will engage in research activities consistent with a dynamic and growing academic environment.

Objective (P)

Faculty Research Agendas 🎤

Faculty will produce and maintain active research agendas pertinent to their areas of research.

KPI Performance Indicator

Publications, Grants, And Conference Presentations

Faculty research progress will be measured by the number of publications (peer reviewed journal articles, book or book chapter, and extensive book reviews), grants, and confernce presentations.

We expect research track (3:3 course load) faculty to produce at least one publication per year or be awarded at least one internal or external grant and to present at a minimum of one conference per year.

We expect teaching track (4:4 course load) to present at a minimum of one conference per year.

Result

Faculty Publications, Grants, And Conference Presentations

Research track faculty produced two or more publications and presented at two or more conferences. Four research track faculty members received grants.

All teaching track faculty presented at a conference with the exception of one teaching track faculty member who did attended, but did not present at, an international workshop relevant to the faculty member's area of teaching. One teaching faculty member also published a peer reviewed journal article.

The combined research activities are: 21 publications, 3 internal grants, 1 external grant, and 27 conference presentations.

Thus, we exceeded our expectations in the area of faculty research.

Action

Faculty Research P

The department of political science will continue to support facutly research consistent with a dynamic and growing academic environment. In the coming year, new tenure track faculty members will receive special attention and resources designed to offer them research support.

Goal Curriculum And Pedagogy P

Faculty in the department of political science will offer high quality curriculum at the undergraduate.

Objective (P) Changes And Improvements To The Undergraduate Program

The department will offer curriculum that is comparable to SHSU's competitive institutions.

KPI Performance Indicator

Curriculum Committee Review P

Curriculum will be reviewed annually by the department's curriculum committee, a committee consisting of 5 members appointed by the department chair. Committee members represent the following areas: international relations, comparative politics, American politics, political theory, and public administration.

The political science courses curriculum will be comparable to regional and public institutions that are SHSU competitive institutions. The basis of comparison will be in terms of hours required for the degree, the types of courses offered, and the objectives of the courses.

Result

Curriculum Review Results P

The curriculum in four out of five areas were comparable to SHSU's competitive institutions. However, the curriculum in political theory was deemed insufficient in terms of the number of course offerings.

There are no actions for this objective.

Objective (P) Faculty Teaching DRAFT P

Faculty teaching performance will rank alongside or above the teaching performance of other faculty teaching in political science and public administration.

KPI Performance Indicator

The Individual Development And Educational Assessment System

Faculty will be evaluated using the data collected through the Individual Development and Educational Assessment system currently used by Sam Houston State University as a tool for evaluating faculty teaching.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, 75% of the face to face political science courses and 70% of the online courses will be scored at or above the national average as identified by the Individual Development and Educational Assessment program. Faculty members who score below or near the national average on the Individual Development and Educational Assessment program for three consecutive semesters will meet with the department chair to discuss and implement an improvement plan that includes

mentoring and use of the Sam Houston State University Professional and Academic Center for Excellence (PACE). The expectation is that scores will improve by .5 on the IDEA scoring scale for the 2014-2015 academic year for those who are identified as underperforming.

Result

Faculty Teaching P

In F14-S15, 92% of face-to-face political science classes received raw scores at or above the national average and 92% received adjusted scores at or above the national average. Thus, we exceeded our goal by 17%.

In F14-S15, 82% of online political science classes received raw scores at or above the national average and 77% received adjusted scores at or above the national average. Thus, we exceeded our goal by 12% at the raw score level and 7% at the adjusted level.

During the past three semester no faculty member received scores below the national average.

Action

Faculty Teaching P

The MA in political science will move completely online in fall 2016. This coming year all graduate faculty who lack experience designing online seminars will receive department support (i.e., online course design assistants, hardware/software, etc.) to help design their courses and will be encouraged to work with staff from SHSU Online, attend Professional and Academic Center for Excellence online teaching training sessions, etc. to ensure quality teaching in online seminars.

Goal

Graduate Student Recruitment P

Improve the quantity and quality of graduate student applications.

Objective (P)

Improve Graduate Student Applications P

The number of students entering the graduate programs will increase and the average GRE and GPA of incoming students will increase.

KPI Performance Indicator

Number Of Applications And Average GRE And GPA P

We expect to see a 10% increase in graduate student enrollment overall. We expect that the average GRE and GPA of students will improve or stay consistent. We will ascertain how successful the efforts to develop new prospective student recruitment pools for the MA program have been, specifically our efforts at targeting high school and community college teachers. We anticipate these recruitment efforts will increase the number of applicants beyond the minimum expectation of a 10% increase.

Students admitted under a conditional acceptance plan will

go through a more rigorous application process (two writing samples, three letters of recommendation, and an interview with the graduate advisor), thus we expect to see the number of conditional acceptance move to permanent acceptance within one semester.

Result

Enrollment, GRE Scores, And GPAs P

Enrollment

Masters of Public Administration

Enrollment from fall 2013 to fall 2014 remained at 38 students. There was no change in growth rate.

Masters of Political Science

Enrollment from fall 2013 to fall 2014 went from 17 to 16 students. There was a 5.8% decrease in growth rate.

GRE Scores

Masters of Public AdministrationThe average GRE score for AY 2013/2014 was 296 and the average score for AY 2014/2015 was 300. There was a 4 point increase in GRE scores.

Masters of Political Science

The average GRE score for AY 2013/2014 was 302 and the average score for AY 2014/2015 was 297. There was a 4 point decrease in GRE scores

GPA

Note: Last year's GPA assessment data combined the GPAs of students from both graduate programs. Thus, for purposes of comparison, this year's assessment data also combines GPAs of students from both programs.

The average GPA for AY 2013/2014 was 3.21 and the average GPA for AY 2014/2015 was 3.44. There was a slight increase of .23.

We did not meet our expectation of a 10% increase in enrollment. We did meet our expectations for increases in GRE scores and GPAs with the exception of a slight decline in GRE scores for Masters of Political Science students.

No students were admitted under a conditional acceptance.

Action

Graduate Student Recruitment P

This coming year both the MA in Political Science and the MA in Public Administration will be under the supervision of two separate directors rather than a single director. The creation of two new graduate director positions will allow greater attention to be given to recruitment. In addition, the MA in Political Science will be moving completely online in the fall 2016. We believe this move will bring an increase in enrollment in that program.

Goal

Student Satisfaction With Programs And Student Market Placement P

The department of political science will monitor and, when necessary, improve students' satisfaction with their respective programs and monitor student market placement upon graduation.

Objective (P)

Entrance And Exit Instruments P

Develop instruments to measure student satisfacation with programs and student market placement upon graduation

KPI Performance Indicator

Entrance And Exit Instruments P

Instruments will be developed and ready for department faculty review approval at the beginning of the 2015 fall semester.

Result

Entrance And Exit Instruments # P

Graduate entrance instruments are ready for the review and approval of the graduate program directors. The instrument is woven into the graduate admission process in the form of a required written statement outlining prosepctive students' professional experience/goals and relevance of graduate degree to professional experience/goals. Drafts of gradaute exit surveys are ready for review and approval of the graduate program directors. A draft of the undergraduate exit survey is ready for faculty review and approval.

Action

Student Satisfaction And Student Placement P

Faculty will vote on the undergraduate exit survey in early fall. This will allow the department to begin implement the survey in December.

Previous Cycle's "Plan for Continuous Improvement"

In the past year the department has undergone a change in chairs and adopted a five year strategic plan. As a result, plans for future improvement changed.

Future Goals

Goal 1: Improve Quality of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs by taking the following actions in AY 2014 - 2015:

- (1) Increase graduate program enrollment Graduate Directors will implement new recruitment initiatives in F14/S15 designed to increase enrollment.
- (2) Improve quality of graduate programs Graduate directors will begin meeting on a bimonthly basis to identify and discuss weaknesses in the programs.
- (3) Improve quality of undergraduate program An undergraduate committee will be formed and given the tasks of evaluating the health of the three minors offered by the department, determining the most efficient and accurate means of generating reports listing majors and minors, developing entrance and exit survey instruments designed to capture information about students' expectations of the program, satisfaction with the program, and developing recruitment initiative plans.

Goal 2: Conduct a Graduate Student Market Placement Analysis by taking the following actions in AY 2014 - 2015

(1) Graduate directors will begin developing entrance and exit surveys designed to capture information relevant to the professional goals of incoming students and professional benefits of completion of degrees. This information will allow the department to measure the economic impact of both graduate programs.

Goal 3: Create a Climate that Encourages Civic Engagement by Faculty and Students by taking the following actions in AY 2014 - 2015

(1) Collect Baseline Data (F14):

Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) Courses

*How many ACE courses taught in F13/S14?

*Which faculty taught ACE courses in F13/S14?

*How many faculty are willing to teach ACE courses in the future?

ACE Grant Submissions

- *How many faculty submitted ACE grant applications in F13/S14?
- *What was the success rate of grant submissions in F13/S14?
- *How many faculty are willing to submit ACE grant applications in the future?

Faculty and Civic Engagement

*Ask faculty what non-ACE civic engagement projects (e.g., voter registration drive, invited quest speakers, etc.) they engage in.

Interested Faculty and Resources

- *Ask faculty interested in civic engagement to identify resources that would be helpful to their civic engagement activities.
- *Identify non-department resources available for civic engagement projects.
- (2) Promotion (S15)
- *Provide faculty with information about department and non-department resources available for ACE faculty
- *Invite ACE directors to give presentations to the department
- Goal 4: Create a Department Alumni Association by taking the following actions:
- (1) Appoint an alumni committee
- (2) Committee members will collect develop an alumni list

- (3) Committee members will revise the alumni "thank you for your donation" letter
- (4) Committee members will develop an electronic newsletter to be sent to alumni
- (5) Committee members will identify additional ways of incorporating alumni into the department's activities

Goal 5: Promotion of the Center for Emergency and Disaster Management (CEDM) by taking the following actions

- (1) Obtain formal approval of CEDM
- (2) Open a department budget line for CEDM
- (3) Develop an office space for CEDM

Please detail the elements of your previous "Plan for Continuous Improvement" that were implemented. If elements were not implemented please explain why, along with any contextual challenges you may have faced that prevented their implementation.

INCREASING MA AND MPA ENROLLMENT

The following actions were taken to increase MA enrollment: High school teachers from surrounding counties were sent emails and postcards advertising the MA program, SHSU POLS undergraduate students were sent emails encouraging them to consider enrolling in the MA program, the director attended on-campus recruitment events, and the director contacted chairs of social science departments at surrounding community colleges informing them that 18 hours of POLS would be offered online for instructors who wished to be credentialed to teach government courses.

The following action was take to increase MPA enrollment: A directory of all county disaster and emergency management personnel was developed. Individuals listed in the directory were sent emails promoting the MPA program.

POLS MINORS

The review of minors offered by the department resulted in the following actions: The department will continue to offer a minor in legal studies and a minor in political science. However, the department decided not to continue with a minor in public policy and public administration at this time as (1) the curriculum needed to support the minor was not in place (2) implementation of the minor could draw students away from the POLS minor and (3) resources for promoting the minor had not been secured.

MARKET PLACE ANALYSIS

The department adopted exits surveys for the underagraduate and graduate programs.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

An alumni committee was appointed and a directory of alumni developed. The content of donor thank you letters were revised to provide donors with more information about the department and to provide a more personalized greeting.

CENTER FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT (CEDM)

The CEDM was approved. The department voted in favor of giving CEDM a \$10,000 budget line for F14/S15. The office spee for CEDM was completed.

FACULTY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Faculty teaching American and Texas Government developed assessment instruments designed to measure student learning in the area of civic engagement.

Faculty participation in ACE course and grant submissions was not successful due to time contstraints. For example, the deadline for filing for an ACE course had already passed when the department began discussing ACE courses.

Plan for Continuous Improvement - Please detail your plan for improvement that you have developed based on what you learned from your 2014 - 2015 Cycle Findings.

UNDERGRADAUTE CURRICULUM REVIEW

During department discussions of the degree plans, it became clear that there concerns about the the major foundation and course listings under required subfield hours. Thus, this coming year the department undergradaute curriculum committee will review these two areas of the degree plans and make recommendations to the department.

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

The department chair conducted a five year analysis of enrollment in the POLS undegraduate programs and minors. The review showed a decrease in enrollment in programs and minors. This coming year the department will implement the following actions designed to increase undergraduate enrollment: (1) the department will begin working closely with SHSU marketing and undegradaute admissions (2) faculty will promote the programs and minors in their introductory courses, courses that typically include many undeclared students (3) the department will use COGNOS reports to determine which schools yield the higest number of POLS recruits and promotional material will be sent to those high schools and (4) the department will begin working more closely with LoneStar Community College campus. Chairs and faculty in an effort to improve the number of POLS students recruited from that campus

MA GRADUATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Efforts to increase MA enrollment were not successful. Only 11.5% of the emails sent out were actually opened by recipient. Attempts to recruit from within SHSU did result in a few students, but not enough to support growth in enrollment. The market for a face-to-face MA program in political science is very limited. Thus, the department voted in favor of moving the MA online. This coming year the department will take the steps necessary to move the MA online.

MARKET PLACE ANALYSIS OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

The department will collect market placement data and will take actions appropriate to the data results.

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DISASTERS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (CDEM): Increase interdisciplinary research initiatives, develop an interactive case study project to be housed on the CDEM website and used for student learning, and establish a CDEM speaker series.