

## **Regents Program Review Two Page Summary Report, 2004**

KSU, College of Arts and Sciences

KSU, Department of Political Science, CIP Code 451001, BA/BS and MA

October 7, 2004

### **Mission, Centrality, and Uniqueness**

The mission of the department is to provide students with a foundation for the systematic study of government and politics in the major fields of comparative politics, international relations, political thought, public administration, and U.S. government, in preparation for national and international careers in the public and not-for-profit sectors, the legal profession, the private sector, and education. To accomplish this mission, the department's BA/BS and MA degree programs, and its Certificate in International Service provide students with the flexibility to tailor their studies within a field to meet their career goals and intellectual interests. The department's final mission is to produce scholarship that contributes to Political Science. Faculty recognize the important linkage between research and quality instruction. The department is a student-centered, research-based learning community.

The UGE courses and degree programs in Political Science are central to the university's mission of preparing students "to be informed, productive, and responsible *citizens* who participate actively in advancing . . . *socio\_political* undertakings." Programs in Political Science also play a central role in enhancing the university's efforts to promote international studies through developing international curriculum, recruiting international students, proposing of new inter-disciplinary degrees, pursuing international research agendas, developing exchange agreements with foreign universities, and organizing campus lectures and speeches by international scholars and diplomats.

The department is unique in a number of ways. At the undergraduate-level, the department may be the most prolific in the nation for producing students winning nationally-competitive scholarships. Fifteen Political Science majors have won Truman Scholarships. In addition, one major has won the Rhodes Scholarship, two majors have won Marshall Scholarships, six majors have won Fulbright Scholarships, four majors have been Phi Kappa Phi Fellows, one major has won the Udall Scholarship, and four have won Rotary International Scholarships. The vast majority of these national scholarships have been won since 1986. At the graduate level, the MA degree offers a Certificate in International Service, which trains graduate students for careers in the international arena, such as the foreign service, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international business. The uniqueness and importance of this certificate can be measured by the steady increase in enrollment for the MA program since the certificate was approved in 1998. The MA now enrolls over 30 graduate students.

### **Quality of Faculty**

Faculty scholarship and quality instruction work together to provide an enriched instructional environment for students at all levels. The Department of Political Science includes one Distinguished University Professor, one University Distinguished Graduate Professor, and several faculty who are nationally or internationally known for their research. On an annual basis, Political Science faculty collectively produce one to two books, eight to sixteen articles and book chapters, and numerous book reviews and other professional publications. Faculty in the department are recognized nationally and internationally as experts in their fields, quoted frequently by other scholars and

interviewed by reporters for regional, national and international newspapers, radio, and television.

All faculty in the department hold doctorates, many from some of the most prestigious Political Science departments in the United States. Without exception, faculty in the department are excellent teachers who strive to improve their instruction each semester. The department is proud of its reputation among students as a department with “good teachers.” However, as the department’s reputation has grown, so has the student demand for courses at all levels. In the department’s 300 level UGE courses, student demand has increased by 55% in the last 5 years. Current faculty FTE make it impossible to provide additional sections of these 300 level UGE courses. As the number of majors has grown at both the undergraduate (37% in past five years) and graduate (from 12 to 31 students) levels, the department, it has found that many its upper-division and graduate courses are filled beyond capacity. These enrollments hamper the ability of faculty to provide the type of individualized instruction that is the hallmark of the department. While future replacement of faculty ending their phased retirement with full-time faculty will provide the department with capacity to add new sections, one new FTE will be required to address increased student demand for its undergraduate course offerings and an additional FTE will be required when the department begins to offer its new MA in Security Studies jointly with the History Department.

### **Quality of the Students**

With over 230 undergraduate majors, an average ACT of almost 26, numerous Presidential and other university scholarship awardees, and a large number of double majors simultaneously enrolled in quality programs like Economics, History, International Studies, and Modern Languages, the department believes that the quality of its undergraduate students is excellent. Not surprisingly, these students occupy important leadership positions in the student government and other student organizations. This year, six majors were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, more than any other department in Arts and Sciences. As has already been documented elsewhere, Political Science majors usually are in the pool of K-State’s nominees for nationally-competitive scholarships and have a strong record of winning these scholarships. . As the number of students has grown from 12 students in 1999 to 31 students in 2003, the quality of the students has increased. In cooperation with the Office of International Programs, the MA and its Certificate in International Service have attracted a large contingent of students from regions of the world like Asia and Africa. The program has also attracted six Muskie Fellows, who are elite students from former Soviet bloc countries, one Fulbright Fellow, and several Foreign Area Officers from the US Army. About half of the MA students are US citizens, many of whom are from Kansas. Almost all of these students have outstanding undergraduate GPAs. The student body in the MA program is diverse (in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, and gender), which adds value to the quality of the learning environment.

### **Employment Demand**

Based on the Post Graduation Statistics produced by the College of Arts and Sciences, between 50% and 60% of Political Science BA/BS graduates pursue some type of graduate work. This statistic is not surprising given the quality of these undergraduate majors. Based on the letters of reference that all faculty write, most of majors who go on to further study attend graduate school in Political Science, Public Administration or law

school. The department has a successful track record of placing its students into some of the best law schools and graduate degree programs in the nation. The other 40% to 50% of students find gainful employment in the public, not-for-profit, or private sector. In 2002-03, these graduates earned an average starting pay of about \$27,000. A careful examination of the list of departmental alumni suggests that many eventually gravitate to the private sector, usually occupying management or public affairs positions. Several have become consultants.

Graduates of the MA program have successfully competed for positions in education, public service, and the private sector, both in the United States and abroad. Two graduates were selected as Presidential Management Fellows, which is a major advantage when seeking a federal position. Several graduates now work with non-government organizations (NGOs) in various regions of the world. Employment demand has been especially high for students who are multi-lingual and for those who have a Certificate in International Service. A significant minority of MA graduates pursue and receive doctorates at some of the leading Political Science programs in the United States and abroad. Finally, some graduates teach at community colleges, and high schools in the US and other countries. The starting salaries for these graduates range from about \$30,000 to more than \$50,000.

#### **Service Provided to University, Discipline, and Beyond**

Departmental faculty service may be divided into three categories: Professional, university, and community. Professionally, faculty serve on editorial boards, participate in professional associations, review manuscripts, referee articles for publication, and are frequently interviewed by the media for their expertise on specific public issues. Most faculty also serve on dissertation committees for students in other departments or at other universities. One faculty member is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, while another is the president\_elect of Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for public administrators. Other faculty members have organized conference sections for major national associations like the American Political Science Association, American Society of Public Administration, and the Southern Political Science Association. Within the university, members of the department play, or have recently played, leadership roles in Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, College Committee on Planning, and other governance bodies. One member of the department serves as the co\_chair of the board of directors for the Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives. Another faculty member is the chair of the International Activities Council. While another is Associate Provost in charge of the Office of International Programs. Faculty regularly perform service activities at the community, state, national, and international levels. This service includes faculty publication in popular media (e.g., op\_ed pieces), delivering public lectures, legislative testimony, consulting, and other activities. One faculty member organizes and raises funds for a lecture series covering military, diplomatic, and political issues.

#### **Cost Effectiveness**

In FY2003, the ratio between Total SCHP and FTE was 613 student credit hours (about 204 students) for each FTE. In FY2003, the ratio between POLSC's total expenditures and total SCHP was \$167.50 per student credit hour. POLSC teaches 1.5% of the institution's total SCHP. POLSC expends about 1.4% of the total expenditures.