

Undergraduate Program Review  
Political Science  
2006-2007

I. Strengths

1. Department recognizes the need to increase enrollment and plans are in place to increase recruitment of Political Science majors.
2. Faculty member teaching performance ratings, research and scholarly activities are highly commendable.
3. A proposal has been submitted to the University Curriculum Committee for a degree in Political Science, with a Social Studies Certification.
4. Graduating Political Science majors have been admitted to prestigious graduate schools.
5. The faculty are most willing to serve as an additional source of advising for their students.
6. The faculty appear to be keenly aware of strengths, weaknesses and issues confronting the Department of Political Science.
7. Mexican faculty exchange program and the first all TAMUK Fulbright scholar-in-residence program.

II. Weaknesses

1. Enrollment in the Political Science major continues to be below departmental expectations.
2. Weak allowances for student field trips and faculty travel (less than \$100).
3. Weak operating budget has curtailed need for student support programs, such as tutors.

4. Lack of office space.
5. No formal statistics maintained on number of Political Science students continue on to non-TAMUK graduate programs.
6. No departmental requirements noted for admission into the Political Science Program.
7. Appears that not all faculty syllabi have adopted course/program SLOs.

### III. Recommendations

1. Develop/implement faculty wide continuous improvement programs to maintain and bolster identified areas of strength, especially Mexican university exchange programs.
2. Obtain faculty commitment and participation in student retention and recruitment process, possibly appointing a faculty member with responsibility for spearheading major annual activities, such as “manning” a new display booth. Cost associated with acquiring a new/used table top display booth could be reduced by having graphics developed with university/student resources.
3. Increase in travel allowances may be improved by early identification and reporting of needs to administration AND seeking funds outside the department, such as Presidential travel awards.
4. SLOs should be developed and appear on faculty syllabi. Course-level assessments should, therefore, be aligned with program-level SLOs.
5. There appears to be a need to continuously update the Political Science curriculum in a parallel environment of globalization. There may be a need to review the curriculum review process in light of today’s global political environment.
6. Future program reviews could be improved by identifying faculty publication, presentation and proceedings.

7. Subcommittee recommended unconditional continuation of this program.