Section 1 Mission and Programs

Department Mission
The Department of Political Science sees its mission as one that looks both inward and outward. We strive to build, amongst our majors, minors and those other students who take our classes, a broad foundational understanding of the principles of our discipline. For our majors, this will include a knowledge base in the areas of American government, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and public law/public administration, as well as a foundation in research methods. Our orientation in building this academic understanding is towards the larger communities of which we are all a part. We seek to prepare students for informed and responsible citizenship; to provide them with the tools and training necessary to become productive professionals in public or private service; and to ensure their ability to effectively adapt to and participate in a rapidly changing world.

Degree Programs
- BA in Political Science
Section 2 Program Summary for Political Science (BA)

Program Rationale or Mission
See section 1

Learning Outcomes
1. Demonstrate basic understanding of the structure and dynamics of American government.
2. Explain the nature of, and relationships between, political institutions, processes, public policies, and ideas.
3. Compare and contrast political institutions and phenomena from multiple nations.
4. Critique or defend, by way of structured argument, political institutions, policies or processes, against a set of values or analytic standards.
5. Apply their knowledge of, and analytic skills in, the discipline to actual political environments or professional career positions.

Significant Curricular Changes

The most significant change to the curriculum is a long planned revision of our major, which was approved by the Faculty Senate this month (May 2012). This revision increases the major to 39 credits from 36, the main addition being a required Research Methods class (PS 250) for all majors. The revision also regroups some courses in our Area requirements; specifies a minimum number of credits that must be at the 300 or 400 level; and requires a number of the elective credits in the major to be taken in a specific disciplinary area. The essential rationales for this revision include:

- Ensuring that all majors are actively prepared with research methods skills
- Ensuring that a substantial part of the major is taken at the 300 level and above
- Clarifying the placement of courses in our disciplinary Area Requirements.

We also added a new course, PS 250, Research Methods, which had been successfully piloted by Dr. Cohen over the past two years. We hope that this course (and the revision of our major) will lead to more active student research amongst our majors.

Students’ Strengths and Weaknesses /Adjustments Made Based on Assessment Findings

Based on our 2010-11 data (see attached report), we have continued our focus on improving students’ abilities to understand nongovernmental actors in politics, explicate relationships between institutions, policies and ideas, and ability to consider counterarguments. As we have spent 2011-12 redefining our major, we did not yet proceed to refine our learning outcomes for assessment as we had planned. This will be one of our departmental tasks for 2012-13.
### Section 3 Summary of Faculty Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creative activity</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Load credit activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New courses developed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative activity</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Articles</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference papers/presentation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conferences attended</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee service</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public/Nonprofit Councils</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Include as an appendix a list of each faculty member’s creative activities categorized by the P&T taxonomy used by your Department (see below)]
Section 4 Contributions to Undergraduate and Graduate Research

Thanks in particular to Dr. Diana Cohen, the Political Science Department is beginning to involve a number of students in active undergraduate research. This year, Dr. Cohen worked actively with 4 students on a variety of research topics, outside of a regular class. She also worked with a number of other students (9) in the second pilot offering of our now-formalized Research Methods class.

In addition to the above, Dr. Petterson supervised 2 Honors Thesis projects and 1 International Studies capstone project. Dr. El-Eid also worked with a number of Masters level students in International Studies on their thesis projects.

Section 5 Summary of Other Noteworthy Accomplishments

1. We supported and cosponsored (with the History Club) a panel on legal careers (February 2012).

2. We were the main organizers of a Democratic US Senate debate on campus on May 24, 2012.

3. We sponsored a Constitution Day talk reflecting on Civil Liberties 10 years After 9/11 (September 2011).
Section 6 Goals and Progress

Progress in 2011-12 on goals set in previous year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals Set in 2010-11 Report</th>
<th>Progress in 2011-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- To review and update the requirements for the Political Science major.</td>
<td>A revision of the Political Science major was approved by the Faculty Senate in May 2012.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To further develop the assessment of our learning outcomes</td>
<td>This goal was deferred to 2012-13, as we will be redefining our learning outcomes based on the now-official revision of our major.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To revitalize the Pi Sigma Alpha honor society in the department.</td>
<td>We revisited the entrance requirements, and will be recruiting a new group of honorees in Fall 2012. We intend to make it more than simply an honor to list on a resume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enhance the emphasis on writing in the major.</td>
<td>As part of our major revision, we increased the required amount of 300 and 400 level courses in the major. We will be reviewing the writing expectations of these courses in 2012-13.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 7: Goals for 2012-13

A. Our major was revised in 2011-12 to enhance both student knowledge and student preparedness for careers in public service, as well as their research and communications abilities. We believe these changes will both enhance their learning and increase the likelihood that they will remain at and graduate from CCSU.

B. The department’s major goals for 2012-13 are:

. To revitalize the Department’s Web page and presence, and use it as a tool to enhance community engagement, retention and graduation.
. To revise the requirements for our Minor in Political Science.
. To revise our Departmental Learning Outcomes in line with our revisions of our Major.
. To examine, investigate and respond to our departmental retention, graduation and postgraduate activity patterns.

C. No major reallocation of resources planned for 2012-13.

D. No major requests for additional resources in 2012-13.
Appendix A : Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Walton Brown-Foster:
Awarded sabbatical leave for Fall 2012 to work on Race And International Conflict research.
Presentation on “Race In International Relations and World Politics”, National Association of African American Studies, Orlando, FL, June 2012.

Dr. Diana Cohen:

Dr. Jerold Duquette:
Presentation on Massachusetts politics/2012 New England Political Science Association meeting.

Dr. Ghassan El-Eid:
Offered 3 successful Study Abroad courses in Dubai, Spain/Morocco and Italy.
Active member of CCSU Internationalization committee.

Dr. Paul Petterson
Presentation on Vermont politics/2012 New England Political Science Association meeting.
Article on Vermont politics/New England Journal Of Political Science, Summer 2012.

Dr. Alan Smith
Obtained contract with Oxford University Press for textbook on comparative politics.

Dr. Robbin Smith
Presented paper on University/Middle School civics partnership, 2012 APSA Teaching and Learning conference, Washington, DC, February 2012.