

# **Administrative and Educational Support Report\***

**Department of Political Science**

**Annual Action Plan  
Annual Assessment Report**

**June 2004 – May 2005**

**\*Student Learning Outcomes for this department are available at  
<http://ie.panam.edu/CoSBSLearningOutcomes.htm>**



## Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2004–May 31, 2005

**Unit:** Department of Political Science

**UTPA Mission:** The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

**Division:** Academic Affairs      **Unit Head:** Dr. Jerry Polinard

**Unit Mission:** The Department of Political Science's mission is to teach a body of knowledge and the critical-thinking skills of the social sciences; to add to this base of knowledge and skills through high-quality research; and to utilize the knowledge and skills in service to our local and professional communities. We will accomplish this mission with:

- Excellence of **teaching** that utilizes pedagogically sound teaching techniques, based on the principles of academic freedom, and that help our students to become committed to life-long learning, critical-thinking, social involvement, and to dealing ethically and empathetically with others.
- **Scholarship** that promotes collaboration in the discovery, testing, and dissemination of knowledge and that can improve the social conditions of our society, our region, the global community, and our professions.
- **Service** based on principles of collegial decision making that contributes to the well being of our university, our respective professions, and our regional, national, and international communities.

**Unit Goal:** Increase academic and co-curricular opportunities for freshmen in the CoSBS

**Link to UTPA Goal(s):** 1: Ensure undergraduate student access and success

Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY05
Approval of learning community course (1)	2	Double, at minimum, the number of POLS faculty who teach learning community classes by Fall 2005.	Design at least two learning community (LC) courses.  Schedule at least two LC	See if POLS department has at least one new approved learning community class by May 2005.	None

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			<p>courses for AY 2004-05.</p> <p>Compare number of learning communities classes in December 2003 with that planned to be offered in AY 2004-05 AY.</p>		Data from URAP office
Growth of extra- or co-curricula activities (2)	2	Increase and/or enhance extra- and co-curricular activities directed at freshmen who have declared and are contemplating majors in POLS.	<p>Identify extra- and co-curricular activities targeting POLS majors in general and first year students in particular during the AY 2003-04.</p> <p>Develop and identify any new activities targeting freshmen POLS majors.</p> <p>Report on implementation of activities targeting freshmen POLS majors during AY 2004-05.</p> <p>Compare the total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for POLS in AY 2003-04 with those in AY 2004-05.</p>	The total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for POLS will be compared between the AY 2003-04 and AY 2004-05 academic years.	None
Approval of freshman seminar (3)	2	Create at least one freshman seminar in POLS by May 2005.	<p>Assist in the design of a freshman seminar in which a faculty member from POLS participates.</p> <p>Submit an interim report</p>	See if an approved freshman seminar is designed by POLS by May 2005.	None

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			<p>on POLS involvement in the creation of a freshmen seminar.</p> <p>Submit final report on POLS involvement in the creation of a freshman seminar.</p> <p>Implement freshman seminar.</p>		



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Unit Objective (Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Approval of learning community course (1)	2	Double, at minimum, the number of POLS faculty who teach learning community classes by	See if POLS department has at least one new approved learning community class by May	One learning community class pairing political science and history was offered in Fall 2004.	Department continues to support the development of LC classes. A

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		Fall 2005.	2005.	Two LC courses (POLS/HIST) were scheduled for Spring 2005, but one had to be cancelled when the professor in the other department resigned.	POLS/HIST learning community class is scheduled for Fall 2005.
Growth of extra- or co-curricula activities (2)	2	Increase and/or enhance extra- and co-curricular activities directed at freshmen who have declared and are contemplating majors in POLS.	The total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for POLS will be compared between the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years.	Bi-weekly meetings of the Political Science Association (PSA) continued and were supplemented by inviting POLS faculty members to address the membership.  In addition, the PSA held forums relating to the 2004 elections. Consequently, the number of activities increased from the usual 14 meetings (held bi-weekly over the Fall/Spring semesters to 18.	Department continues its support of effective outreach efforts.
Approval of freshman seminar (3)	2	Create at least one freshman seminar in POLS by May 2005.	See if an approved freshman seminar is designed by POLS by May 2005.	The idea of a freshman seminar has been replaced by the Learning Framework courses. All beginning POLS majors took an LF course. Department faculty members met, either individually or in groups, with every LF section in	Feedback on the presentations to the learning framework courses has been uniformly positive.

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				<p>the CoSBS or presented a PowerPoint presentation about the discipline and the department.</p> <p>In addition, the department advisor placed additional emphasis on encouraging first-year POLS majors to enroll in POLS 1333/2334 (currently required of all POLS majors and minors). This course introduces the students to the nature of the discipline.</p>	

**Additional Resources Needed (if any) that were requested for FY06 during the budget cycle:** One lecturer and one tenure track position and additional operating and travel money.