

Administrative and Educational Support Report*

Department of Political Science

**Annual Action Plan
Annual Assessment Report**

June 2006 – May 2007

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



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

Unit: 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:** 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.

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Assist students in defining their educational goals and support them in reaching those goals in a timely manner.

College/AVP Objective: Enable students to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Enable students to develop a plan of study. (1)	Develop and publish class schedules in a timely fashion.	Class schedules will be developed and published in a timely fashion in AY 06-07.	Each semester schedule will be developed and transmitted in accordance with established University deadlines, at least 9 months in advance of the beginning of the applicable	None

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Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
			semester.	
Maintain hands-on department level advising. (2)	Ensure that the departmental advisor advises majors in a satisfactory fashion.	Undergraduates who receive advisement from the departmental advisor will report a high level of satisfaction with the advisement process.	An anonymous advisement evaluation form will be distributed to each advisee. All forms will be reviewed by May 2007 by both the departmental advisor and by the department Chair to verify that undergraduates report a high level of satisfaction with the advisement process.	None

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

College/AVP Objective: Provide all students with a quality educational experience.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Foster research and hands on experience. (3)	Support faculty/student cooperative research.	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of faculty/student collaboration, as illustrated by student participation in the research process.	Faculty/student collaboration, including students assisting with data collection, coauthoring papers, and attending conferences, will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in	None

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Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
			AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	

UTPA Goal: Become an outstanding research institution, emphasizing collaborative partnerships and entrepreneurship.

Academic Affairs Objective: Provide support for the improvement of the research infrastructure.

College/AVP Objective: Generate support for research and develop a culture of research.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Encourage faculty to meaningfully contribute to the Political Science body of knowledge. (4)	Support faculty in seeking grant/contract funds.	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of faculty grant/contract activity.	The number of grants/contracts funding faculty research activities will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	None

UTPA Goal: Enhance UTPA's engagement with the community to meet challenges and maximize opportunities.

Academic Affairs Objective: Promote engagement with existing organizations to address challenges and opportunities.

College/AVP Objective: Increase community awareness and understanding of the College.

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Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Maintain a user friendly Department web site. (5)	Develop state of the art web pages for the department.	Content for web pages will be collected for the IT department, who will develop the pages.	Content for the department web pages will be collected and given to IT by January 2007.	None
Maintain contact and communication with relevant community interest groups. (6)	Faculty will speak to relevant civic organizations.	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of community involvement as illustrated by invited talks to civic organizations.	The number of invited talks to civic organizations will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	None

UTPA Goal: Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives throughout the University community.

Academic Affairs Objective: Infuse international and Inter-American content into the curriculum.

College/AVP Objective: Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives in curriculum.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Apply the Learning Communities' model to international perspectives. (7)	Faculty with interests in such activities will be encouraged to participate in Learning Communities.	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of involvement in Learning Communities.	The number of Learning Community classes offered will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	None

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UTPA Goal: Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives throughout the University community.

Academic Affairs Objective: Increase research activity with an international focus.

College/AVP Objective: Increase research activity with an international focus.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Recruit faculty with international research interests. (8)	When new faculty are being sought, advertise for and actively recruit faculty with international research interests.	The majority of faculty hired to fill approved positions will have international research interests.	The majority of faculty hired during AY06-07 will identify international research interests.	Positions required.



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Division: Academic Affairs **Unit Head:** Polinard

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College/AVP Objective: Enable students to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Enable students to develop a plan of study. (1)	Class schedules will be developed and published in a timely fashion in AY 06-07.	Each semester schedule will be developed and transmitted in accordance with established University deadlines, at least 9 months in advance of the	Schedules were developed in a timely fashion.	Structure used for creating the schedules will be maintained for 07-08.

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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
		beginning of the applicable semester.		
Maintain hands-on department level advising. (2)	Undergraduates who receive advisement from the departmental advisor will report a high level of satisfaction with the advisement process.	An anonymous advisement evaluation form will be distributed to each advisee. All forms will be reviewed by May 2007 by both the departmental advisor and by the department Chair to verify that undergraduates report a high level of satisfaction with the advisement process.	Evaluation form was administered with <u>very high levels of satisfaction</u> reported.	No changes suggested by evaluation results. Evaluation form will continue to be used.

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

College/AVP Objective: Provide all students with a quality educational experience.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Foster research and hands on experience. (3)	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of faculty/student collaboration, as illustrated by student participation in the research process.	Faculty/student collaboration, including students assisting with data collection, coauthoring papers, and attending conferences, will be maintained at the same	Student collaboration re data collection remained at same level. Student co-authored paper is being revised for submission to scholarly journal.	Special topics course on advanced research methods will be developed to enhance research capabilities of students.

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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
		level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.		

UTPA Goal: Become an outstanding research institution, emphasizing collaborative partnerships and entrepreneurship.

Academic Affairs Objective: Provide support for the improvement of the research infrastructure.

College/AVP Objective: Generate support for research and develop a culture of research.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Encourage faculty to meaningfully contribute to the Political Science body of knowledge. (4)	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of faculty grant/contract activity.	The number of grants/contracts funding faculty research activities will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	We increased by one the number of research grants obtained the previous year.	We will continue to encourage faculty to seek funding.

UTPA Goal: Enhance UTPA's engagement with the community to meet challenges and maximize opportunities.

Academic Affairs Objective: Promote engagement with existing organizations to address challenges and opportunities.

College/AVP Objective: Increase community awareness and understanding of the College.

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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Maintain a user friendly Department web site. (5)	Content for web pages will be collected for the IT department, who will develop the pages.	Content for the department web pages will be collected and given to IT by January 2007.	Information for the department web page was provided to the appropriate office.	Web page is under construction.
Maintain contact and communication with relevant community interest groups. (6)	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of community involvement as illustrated by invited talks to civic organizations.	The number of invited talks to civic organizations will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	Number of invited talks increased slightly.	No changes suggested by assessment results; POLS faculty continue to be sought for various community activities.

UTPA Goal: Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives throughout the University community.

Academic Affairs Objective: Infuse international and Inter-American content into the curriculum.

College/AVP Objective: Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives in curriculum.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Apply the Learning Communities' model to international perspectives. (7)	Faculty will maintain a consistent level of involvement in Learning Communities.	The number of Learning Community classes offered will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	LC classes were maintained at current level, although one LC class had to be canceled due to scheduling demands.	Department will continue to encourage LC participation.

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UTPA Goal: Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives throughout the University community.

Academic Affairs Objective: Increase research activity with an international focus.

College/AVP Objective: Increase research activity with an international focus.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Recruit faculty with international research interests. (8)	The majority of faculty hired to fill approved positions will have international research interests.	The majority of faculty hired during AY06-07 will identify international research interests.	Two-thirds of the faculty hired had international research interests.	Department will continue to emphasize international research interests as department staffing needs dictate.