

Department of Political Science

Self-Study Report

March 1, 2007

## **Executive Summary**

The Department of Political Science is undergoing transition. As new faculty members replace those who retire, the Department's personnel will change with new strengths being added to those already present. Undergraduate student enrolment continues to increase and a comprehensive curriculum review is planned for the 2007-2008 academic year. As part of the Academic Program Review process, the Department's undergraduate Curriculum Committee was tasked with engaging members of the Department in discussions to prepare for the upcoming curriculum review. The Committee report (Appendix 1) identifies strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities that the Department must consider as it undergoes the process of renewal. The graduate program continues to do increasingly well with a competitive application process having a maximum intake of 10 students per year. Summary information regarding the Department's undergraduate and graduate programs, enrolment, degrees awarded, and research specialization of faculty is provided in the Overview which follows.

The Department views the Academic Program Review process as an opportunity to bring different ideas and interests together to find new ways to collaborate, form common visions and partnerships, and to build the capacity needed to address the ever-changing realities of academic life. To assist in this, the Department welcomes suggestions and recommendations from the Academic Program Review Panel.

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# Department of Political Science

## Overview

### Undergraduate Program

Undergraduate courses within the discipline of Political Science are divided into four levels (see below). Pre-requisite courses apply to some courses as specified in the calendar.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1000	Political Science 1000, 1010, 1020 are basic courses introducing students to the study of politics. Political Science 1000 and 1010 place particular emphasis on Canadian Politics while Political Science 1020 stresses international issues. Any two of these courses are recommended to students interested in knowledge and skills useful for understanding politics and government and the context in which political decisions are made.
2000	Courses at the 2000-level are designed to introduce the student to the Major areas within the discipline of Political Science: Political Theory (x0xx), (x1xx); International Politics (x2xx); Comparative Politics (x3xx), (x4xx); Political Behaviour (x5xx); and Canadian Politics (x7xx). These courses raise questions, survey substantive knowledge, and introduce methodological approaches useful to students going on to more advanced courses in these fields. Taken together these courses serve as a foundation for a Major program in Political Science. Individually, they are open to all students interested in exploring specific aspects of Political Science.
3000	3000-level courses deal with a wide range of topics in depth, and assume some previous knowledge of appropriate areas of Political Science or related disciplines.
4000	4000-level courses are advanced seminars, either bringing together several approaches or fields of knowledge within the discipline, or focusing on specific problems.

To meet the requirements for a B.A. degree with a Major in Political Science, a student must, in addition to meeting the general requirements, complete at least 42 credit hours in courses offered by the Department.

To qualify for the B.A. (Hons.) Degree in Political Science, a student must complete at least 60 credit hours in course offered by the department.

## Undergraduate Student Enrolment

The following table depicts data compiled by the Centre for Institutional Analysis for undergraduate enrolment numbers from 2001-2005. Data from 2006 is still preliminary and accounts for only two of three semesters. The data from 2006 is also not reflected in the percentage change calculation.

There is a general trend of increase in undergraduate enrolments in the Department of Political Science which is noteworthy.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006**	Percentage Change	
						5 years	1 Year
2,018	2,068	2,338	2,699	2,836	2,579	41%	5%

The number of full-time equivalent majors has also increased within the department over the past five years as is shown in the table below. Data has been compiled by the Centre for Institutional Analysis. Data from 2006 is still preliminary and is not reflected in the percentage change calculation.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006**	Percentage Change	
						5 years	1 Year
126	121	124	137	189	297	51%	38%

There has also been an increase in degrees awarded from 2001-2005. Data has been compiled by the Centre for Institutional Analysis. Data for 2006 is not yet available.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006**	Percentage Change	
						5 years	1 Year
35	39	22	44	42	- - -	20%	-5%

## **Graduate Program**

The degree of Master of Arts is offered in Political Science by full-time and part-time study. The degree may be taken by course work and thesis, course work and internship, or course work only. The thesis and internship options are available to full-time and part-time students. Both options are one-year programs for full-time students. The course work option is available only to part-time students.

### **M.A. with thesis:**

- a. Students choosing the M.A. with thesis must normally complete a minimum of 18 credit hours in graduate program courses. Twelve credit hours are from required courses: 6000, 6010, 6020, and a subfield survey (one of 6100, 6200, 6300, 6400, 6500, 6600, or 6700). Further courses beyond the minimum number may be required, depending on the background and needs of the student.
- b. Each student choosing the thesis option will submit a thesis on a subject that has been approved by the supervisory committee of the Department.
- c. Students applying for the thesis option must submit a brief (one page maximum) statement of their research interest with their application.

### **M.A. with internship:**

- d. Students choosing the M.A. with internship must normally complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in graduate program courses. Fifteen credit hours are from required courses: 6000, 6010, 6031, 6790, and a subfield survey (one of 6100, 6200, 6300, 6400, 6500, 6600, or 6700). Further courses beyond the minimum number may be required, depending on the background and needs of the student.
- e. Each student choosing this option will complete, normally in the Spring Semester, a one-semester, full-time internship, 6030, with a political organization, government agency, or voluntary agency. Students registering for 6030 must also register for its co-requisite, 6031. The placement must normally be selected from a list of approved organizations that is maintained by the Department.

## Graduate Student Enrolment

Graduate student enrolment in the Department of Political Science has been steady for the past five years. Data compiled by the Centre for Institutional Analysis demonstrates this trend. Data for 2006 is still preliminary and is not reflected in the percentage change calculation.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006**	Percentage Change	
						5 years	1 Year
21	20	19	17	29	18	38%	71%

Within the graduate program, the number of Masters of Arts degrees in Political Science awarded has also shown an increase. The following table represents the number of M.A. (Political Science) degrees awarded from 2001-2005. Data has been compiled by the Centre for Institutional Analysis. Data for 2006 is not yet available.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006**	Percentage Change	
						5 years	1 Year
1	9	9	6	5	- - -	400%	-17%



## **Faculty Complement**

The faculty complement in the Department of Political Science includes the following individuals with their respective specialties listed. Their credentials and research activities are detailed later in this report.

### **Interim Head**

Boswell, P.G. – Newfoundland, Municipal, and Canadian politics

### **Professors**

Bornstein, S.E. – Other - does not teach in department

Close, D.W. – Central and Latin American politics

Dunn, C. – Public Administration and Canadian Politics

Tomblin, S.G. – Canadian Politics, Regionalism, and Health Policy

Tremblay, R.C. – Comparative politics

Wolinetz, S.B. – Comparative politics, European politics, and political parties

### **Associate Professors**

Croci, O. – International politics, international organization, politics of international sports

Greene-Summers, V.A. – on leave

McGrath, W. – Canadian foreign policy, Russian and Eastern European politics,

Wallack, M. – Political theory

### **Assistant Professors**

Marland, A. – Canadian politics, political communication and marketing.

Williams, R.A. – International political economy and globalization.

### **New appointments (forthcoming)**

Blidook, M. – Research methods

Kirby, M. – Canadian public policy

# **Department of Political Science**

## **Academic Program Review Self-Study**

### **Introduction**

The Department of Political Science is undergoing renewal. Originally established in 1967 when the units which comprised the Department of Social Studies (Commerce, Economics, Political Science, and Sociology and Anthropology) were each given their mandates as separate departments, the Department of Political Science had a fairly steady growth from the original four faculty members to eleven in 1977-78 reaching a high of fifteen in 1992-93. In recent years, the Department's number of full-time teaching faculty has dipped to as low as eight due to retirements, deaths, and illness. Faculty renewal began in 2003-04 and will continue to significantly change the Department in the years ahead.

Initially, the Department defined itself as primarily a teaching Department, strongly committed to undergraduate education. This was reflected in a steady production of general and Honours degrees. An MA program was embraced reluctantly and closed down three times before it was firmly entrenched in 1993. The Department has now committed itself to the MA program and started to assign more resources to it thus allowing dedicated graduate courses to be offered regularly each year. During the first three decades, the Department had a modest research output. This has changed and research productivity has improved considerably. As a reflection of this, the Department has changed its thinking about how it should be staffed. In its earlier incarnations, the Department had a strong complement in Canadian politics and smaller numbers (often only one faculty member) in other fields and areas. Since the mid-1990s, the Department has begun to build strength in a number of areas in order to provide depth and back-up in the event of sabbaticals or illness. This has been only partially successful: for example, Dr. Osvaldo Croci was hired to provide additional depth in both European politics and international relations, but following the untimely death of Dr. Gunther Hartmann, ended up as the principal person in international relations. In addition, the slow pace of faculty renewal and difficulty in obtaining funding to replace retiring faculty members delayed further concentration in fields such as regional politics.

## ***Faculty Complement***

At its high point, the Department's faculty complement was fifteen. A combination of deaths, retirements, and the long-term illness of one member of the Department, however, reduced the effective faculty complement to ten for several years, although it dipped briefly to eight. Only recently has this begun to change. No funding was made available to replace the retirements of Professor Jerry Murphy and Dr. Susan McCorquodale in the late 1990s. Dr. Stephen Bornstein was hired in 1999, but has not been a teaching member of the Department as he has been Director of the Centre for Applied Health Research since his appointment. Dr. Osvaldo Croci was hired in 2000, but with the retirement of Professor Mark Graesser and the death of Dr. Gunther Hartmann, the Department's effective teaching faculty dropped to eight. Dr. Bernard Fournier was hired in 2002 as a replacement for Professor Graesser, and Dr. Jamie Lawson was hired in 2003 for a new position in public policy. This brought the Department's effective teaching faculty complement back up to ten. In 2004-05, the Department received funding to recruit a new faculty member, Dr. Deepa Khosla, in International Relations. Unfortunately, Dr. Khosla died suddenly during her first semester at Memorial, and she was replaced by Dr. Russell Williams who joined the Department in 2006 along with Dr. Alex Marland, who filled a position in Canadian politics which was partially a replacement for Dr. Peter Boswell. Dr. Reeta Tremblay also joined the Department in 2006, although as Dean of Arts, her teaching activities will be limited in the near future. The Department is currently in the process of hiring replacements for Dr. Fournier and Dr. Lawson, both of whom resigned in late 2005. Once the new faculty members are hired, and with the retirement of Dr. Boswell, the faculty complement at the start of the 2007-08 academic year will be fourteen, although the effective teaching complement will be eleven.<sup>1</sup> Over the next six years, six faculty members will be eligible for retirement, thus potentially creating the opportunity for further faculty renewal.

As will be discussed further below, the Department's undergraduate student enrolment has increased from a total of 2,190 in 1997 to 2,772 in 2006. These increased student numbers have placed considerable strain on the Department's teaching capacity, although it has been somewhat ameliorated by hiring contractual teaching term appointees as necessary. Together with a number of per-course instructors who teach specialty courses which would not otherwise be available, the teaching requirements of the Department have been satisfactorily covered, although the Department has, by far, the highest ratio of course registrations per regular full-time faculty member in the Faculty of Arts.<sup>2</sup> Related to this, are difficulties the Department has recently experienced in the supervision of Honours papers and Graduate theses as well as in filling departmental committees. It is anticipated that once the new tenure-track faculty are in place at the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year, supervisions and committee work will be more evenly

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<sup>1</sup> The Department Head receives a three-course remission per year, Dr. Reeta Tremblay will only teach an occasional course while Dean, Dr. Stephen Bornstein has full teaching remission, and Dr. Valerie Summers has been on long-term disability for several years.

<sup>2</sup> Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning, *Academic Unit Profile 2005-06* (St. John's: Memorial University of Newfoundland, 2007). See Appendix 2.

distributed and the Department's course registration-faculty ratio (498.5) will begin to approach the Faculty of Arts norm (242.5).<sup>3</sup> However, the Department will still be understaffed relative to other departments. Also, the number of faculty will remain "thin" in several of the key subfields, seriously undermining senior undergraduate and graduate course offerings as well as supervisions during sabbaticals.

## **Faculty Complement 2006-07**

### **Interim Head**

Boswell, P.G., B.A. Toronto, M.A., Ph.D. Carleton, A.C.I.S., P.Adm.

### **Professors**

Bornstein, S.E., B.A. Toronto, M.A., Ph.D. Harvard; Director, Centre for Applied Health Research

Close, D.W., B.S.F.S. Georgetown, M.A. Wayne State, Ph.D. McGill

Dunn, C., B.A. Manitoba, M.A., Ph.D. Toronto

Tomblin, S.G., B.A. Calgary, M.A. Dalhousie, Ph.D. British Columbia

Tremblay, R. C., B.A., M.A. Kashmir, M. Phil. Nehru, M.A., Ph. D. Chicago,

Wolinetz, S.B., B.A. Cornell, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. Yale

### **Associate Professors**

Croci, O., B.A. Università di Venezia, M.A. Carleton, Ph.D. McGill

Greene-Summers, V.A., B.A. Memorial, M.A. York, Ph.D. Carleton; on leave

McGrath, W., B.A., M.A. McMaster, Ph.D. Carleton

Wallack, M., B.A. City College, N.Y.

### **Assistant Professors**

Marland, A. B.A. Carleton, M.A. Memorial, Ph.D. Lancaster

Williams, R.A., B.A., M.A. Victoria, Ph.D. Simon Fraser

### **Adjunct Professors**

O'Brien, F.P., B.A. Memorial, LL.B. Dalhousie, LL.M. Cambridge

Vardy, D., B.A.(Hons.), B.Comm. Memorial, M.A. Princeton, Toronto

### **Adjunct Associate Professor**

Penney, R.G., B.A. Memorial, LL.B. Toronto

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp. 9 and 33.

## Strategic Objectives

Although the Department has never formally adopted a set of strategic objectives, comprehensive discussions about the Department's aims and goals have taken place, usually in the context of periodic undergraduate curriculum reviews and deliberations about field priorities for hiring. The Department has agreed on and followed certain defining objectives:

- the provision of a high-quality, comprehensive, liberal-arts undergraduate program in Political Science which covers all major fields and areas of the discipline.
- the provision of a high-quality MA program geared toward students who seek terminal degrees as well as those who plan to pursue doctoral or other post-graduate studies.
- the production of high-quality research in a variety of areas of interest to individual faculty members as well as participation in multi-university research projects and interdisciplinary research with other Departments at MUN.
- to seek and obtain more research funding both for individual and collaborative projects.
- the building of additional exchange programs and research links with other universities in North America and Europe.

## Undergraduate Curriculum and Teaching

The Department's undergraduate curriculum was developed in the early 1970s and has undergone periodic review and adjustment. Initially, the Department sought to offer students what was then the "standard quartet" of undergraduate teaching: Canadian, comparative, international relations, and theory. As the Department expanded, new courses were added for two primary reasons. First, some new courses reflected either the research interests of new faculty members or those of the established members who were able to teach more in their own areas of expertise as the newer faculty members took over the load of teaching some of the first and second-year introductory courses. Second, although Department members continually updated courses to incorporate new material and changing trends in the discipline, new courses were sometimes required. A number of courses were thus added to the Department's offerings over the years, although as staffing levels and personnel changed, it was not always possible to offer all the courses on a regular basis. As indicated in the following paragraphs, it is expected that the APR process, together with the relative stabilization of faculty will provide the catalyst to commence a comprehensive curriculum review in the 2007-08 academic year.

As part of the preparation for the APR self-study, the Curriculum Committee was tasked with reviewing the current undergraduate curriculum.<sup>4</sup> In the process, the Committee developed an instructors' questionnaire to engage members of the Department in a dialogue on the strengths and weaknesses of the current program. The intent was to highlight and frame issues in a way that was participatory, integrated, and hopefully capable of improving the quality and sustainability of the curriculum.

The Committee members viewed their task as being to examine the current curriculum, bring different interests together, and discuss ways to upgrade the tools we rely upon to deal with new challenges. Their intent was not to provide a new vision or mental map, since that will come out of the APR process. Rather, the Committee saw their role as facilitating a discussion on the key curriculum challenges facing the Department in the near future.

To clarify their understanding of key issues, the Committee relied upon an Instructors' Questionnaire to help identify strengths as well as gaps. Their assessment was that while there are different perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the program, there seems to be much support for what has been constructed, and optimism that the curriculum can be updated in a way that will make it more relevant, comprehensive, and responsive to the needs and interests of students, as well as faculty. The Committee found little support for radical changes in program design or philosophy, nor did they find much evidence that people feel the program is in crisis. Rather, the Committee found agreement that incremental changes are a better option at this time of transition and personnel change.

What became clear in the Committee's analysis is that some members of our Department are passionate about renewal and strengthening the curriculum and the Committee concluded that it is important that we work together and find ways to improve the teaching foundations of the Department and provide an even better service for our students. Examples of new innovation at the undergraduate level are the recently-developed research/writing course POSC 2010 and the success of the internship course, POSC 4000. This latter course began as a pilot project in 1999 and was added as a regular course in 2000. Since then, it has been offered every year in at least the Fall and Winter semesters and at times in the Spring term. About ten students, most of whom are in their last year of studies, enrol in the course annually. The course involves an unpaid, part-time (eight hours per week for the thirteen weeks of the semester) placement in an approved agency (the Department maintains a list, though students may propose their own placement), the completion of several small assignments, and the submission of a term paper of length and quality appropriate to a 4000-level course.

One of the most difficult issues the Committee dealt with was deciding which issues or problems require attention. They confined their analysis to 18 questions in an attempt to elicit different perspectives, shed light on what the Department has created and inherited, discern problems, and identify future priorities.

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<sup>4</sup> The Committee's full report is attached as Appendix 1.

It had been hoped that questionnaires could be administered to our current and former students, but this was not possible. The Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning, which had performed this service for previous APR self-studies in other Departments, was unable to do so because of staff shortages. As an alternative, members of the Curriculum Committee and the Department Head arranged to meet the students with the cooperation of the undergraduate Political Science society in an effort to determine student satisfaction with the program and to identify particular problems.

While the students seemed satisfied overall with the major and minor requirements, concerns were expressed about too many courses being offered in the same time slots and in the evenings. This was a particular problem for Honours students who must complete a minimum of three courses at the 4000-level in addition to their Honours Essays. In some cases, where specialty courses are offered by part-time instructors who work full-time in their professions, evenings are the only time when they can teach. Examples of this are: Derek Butler, Executive Director of the Association for Seafood Processors, who teaches POSC 4301, Preconditions of Democracy; Frank O'Brien, Director of Legal Education of the Law Society of Newfoundland, who teaches POSC 3210, International Law, POSC 3521, Law and Society, and POSC 3720, Canadian Constitutional Law; and Capt. Philip McCarter, Safety Office for Canship Uglund Ltd., who teaches two 4000-level special topics courses, Law of the Sea (POSC 4200) and Ocean Environmental Policy (POSC 4610). While students recognized that it was only possible for us to obtain the expertise of these instructors in evening courses, every effort should be made to ensure that no courses taught by regular faculty members are offered during the evening.

A second problem identified by the students related to course titles and descriptions. Students indicated that they frequently select courses based only on the titles and if the titles aren't interesting, they don't register for the courses. A related problem is that special topics courses are listed in the calendar and registration booklet without any indication of course content beyond a generic title. It was agreed that providing a more detailed description on the Department web site would be very useful in helping students decide which courses to take.

Concern was also raised by students about the number of inactive courses listed in the Department's calendar course listings. Courses which have not been offered in several years and which will not likely be offered in the foreseeable future should be removed from the calendar. It was also suggested that POSC 3340, Women and Politics, should be offered on a regular basis, although it was recognized that the ability of the Department to offer the course depends on the availability of someone to teach it.

When asked about the low enrolment this past year in POSC 2500, Introduction to Political Behaviour, students suggested that it is linked with the vague course title and lack of a clear link to the POSC 3010/3011 research methods sequence. It is anticipated that the hiring of a new tenure-track research methods specialist in 2007-08 will lead to a thorough re-evaluation of the political behaviour and research methods courses.

Students were also quite concerned that very few 4000-level courses are actually taught as seminars with a limited number of students. Because of relatively high enrolments, too many 4<sup>th</sup> year courses end up being taught in a lecture format.

## ***Summary of Faculty Comments***

### **Composition of undergraduate courses**

There was no clear consensus on whether there are any necessary courses which are missing from the curriculum. For some, there was a reluctance to move too quickly in adding new courses until the Department's membership stabilizes and then to move gradually and incrementally. Others, however, felt that there should be more courses in political theory, American/US foreign policy, women's studies, and political economy. The Committee did not find any evidence of internal ideological or institutional constraints which would inhibit the development of new courses.

The Committee found unanimous support for updating course names and calendar descriptions where required and suggested a coordinated approach to this task as part of a thorough curriculum review. A division of opinion was found, however, on the question of removing inactive courses from the curriculum. For some, there is a desire to remove any courses that are no longer taught, but others urge caution until the Department has completed the process of faculty renewal and the teaching interests of new faculty members are fully known.

The issue of duplication of themes taught across courses generated a rather divisive and heated debate within the Department. While some were concerned about some the duplication in first year (and some Canadian courses), others discussed the challenges of interdependence and the diverse range of frameworks and approaches available for addressing common themes within the Department. It was suggested that building different silos and protecting turf would not benefit the Department and it would go against current "interdisciplinary trends."

While the Committee found some support for first-year research and writing courses, this did not appear to be a top priority. While there was agreement that the quality of research and writing remains a big problem, there was little agreement on whether more such courses were needed. Given the limited resources available for teaching, concerns were raised that a change of priorities in such a direction might not create better outcomes, and could threaten other positive aspects of the current program. There appeared to be interest in improving writing and research skills throughout the program, rather than targeting resources specified research/writing courses.

The Department eliminated most prerequisites following a curriculum review a number of years ago. The Committee found no clear consensus on the desirability of reinstating prerequisites. Some colleagues suggested that mandatory prerequisites never really worked very well and that is why they were largely eliminated in the first place.



However, some felt that there have been problems with the more flexible, decentralized approach, especially in the field of quantitative analysis and fourth year seminars. Instructors have struggled trying to engage and teach students who do not have a strong conceptual background in the material, while maintaining the interest of students who do have the necessary background. The Committee found that while there was a sense that there were problems, not everyone agreed that the best solution was necessarily introducing more prerequisites. While there appeared to be more support for introducing more prerequisites in the field of quantitative analysis, for the most part, the bigger concern was for improving the status quo through the development or adoption of a more effective communication strategy between the Department and students. Much emphasis was placed on coming up with a clear outline of expectations for students and then ensuring that class sizes and resources reflect these priorities and needs.

The Committee found the research methods component of the curriculum to be the area that most people are concerned about and felt there is a need for major rethinking and design. On the other hand, there was a clear reluctance to do anything too radical until a thorough review of the curriculum can take place and after the currently-advertised tenure-track position in research methods has been filled.

On the question of standardization of course sections at the first-year level, the Committee found no consensus. Rather than establishing formal rules and mechanisms for defining and implementing standardization, there appeared to be much more support for informal meetings, and discussions among instructors at the first-year level with a view to developing common standards and practices that were informal, collaborative, and did not threaten academic freedom in any way.

### Political Science Honours, Majors, and Minors

The question of whether improvements in the Honours program were required generated little discussion, although there was a sense that the purpose or objective of an Honours program needs to be reconsidered. If the purpose is to prepare students for advanced graduate degrees, then it was suggested that we need to pay closer attention to international expectations and standards. There were also concerns raised about whether Honours students had the kind of qualitative and quantitative skills required to move into the next phase of research. The Committee concluded that any debate over the Honours program will need to consider resources, capacity, and other priorities and outcomes for the Department.

The Committee also found little discussion on the question of whether improvements were needed for the Political Science majors program, although a perceived lack of upper level courses was noted. There were some suggestions about the need to reduce the number of second year courses in order to offer more 3rd and 4th year courses.

With regard to the requirements for Political Science minors, there were very few comments and strong support for the status quo.

Mixed perspectives on the question of establishing specialty streams at the undergraduate level were received and some serious concerns were raised by critics. Overall, there did not appear to be much empirical support to justify such a change of policy at this time or compelling logic that there is pressure to move in this direction.

## Enrolments

The Committee found a general consensus on the need to adopt higher enrolments in first and second year courses in order to offer more 3rd and 4th year courses. Related to this was a clear consensus that combining undergraduate students with graduate students in “piggybacked” courses is not a good idea, but a product of limited resources. With regard to the more general question of what factors should be considered in assessing the Department’s capacity to deliver courses, the Committee argued that we will have to consider overall priorities and goals such as whether we are interested mostly in research, public policy, or training undergraduates.

## Other Feedback

The Committee’s questionnaire elicited a range of ideas inspired by other Departments and universities. These included integrating the faculty of other Departments, using tutorials for large classes, ensuring that only experienced instructors with a Ph.D. teach introductory courses, consideration of whether non-honours students should receive methods training, and advice that any changes should involve small steps to improve teaching standards.

## ***Summary of Enrolment Data Analysis***

The curriculum Committee analyzed undergraduate enrolment data for the 1996-2006 period and the following section is based on their report. The enrolment data can be found at the end of their report in Appendix 1.

## Strengths

Many of the Department’s core courses are relatively popular. Enrolment increased 7.2% from Winter 2006 to Winter 2007 (1,046 to 1,121 registrations), which compares to a decline in the Faculty of Arts of -5.6% over the same period.<sup>5</sup> Since 1996, students taking 1000 (Introduction to Politics) have accounted for 24 percent of enrolment in the Department. Demand for introductory courses can also be found in the other two first-year courses (1010 and 1020), which together have provided 18 percent of enrolment, while five other popular second-year introductory courses (2000, 2200, 2300, 2711 and particularly 2710) have contributed 22 percent. All told, these seven introductory courses alone account for nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of enrolment in the Department of Political Science over the past decade. It stands to reason that students in these courses

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<sup>5</sup> MUN, Office of the Registrar, Registration Progress Report #3, January 4, 2007. See last page of Appendix 1.

need to be given special encouragement to consider other Political Science courses as well. Of note, certain topics have also proven popular with students, notably law and Newfoundland politics.

The Committee identified five courses which have had very strong enrolment and are the “meat and potatoes” of the Department, five courses which have had strong enrolment, and 15 courses which have had solid enrolment.

## Weaknesses

As with any curriculum, some course titles and calendar descriptions need updating, some are only offered periodically by per-course instructors, and others have experienced low demand or have not been offered in years. Of particular concern is the low enrolment in the Department’s research methods courses (3010 and 3011). Faculty members are aware that this issue needs to be addressed since it may contribute to fewer students enrolling in the Honours program than might otherwise be the case. There are also a number of courses that have not been offered for over a decade and courses that have been sufficiently unpopular to warrant consideration for removal from the calendar.

The Committee identified four courses whose enrolment has been relatively weak compared to others, five courses which have been offered intermittently and which attracted low enrolment, and six courses which have not been offered in the last decade. It should be noted, however, that some of the courses with relatively low enrolment were sometimes offered more than once per year both on-campus and as distance courses. In addition, there are some courses, particularly senior courses in political theory, which may attract fewer students, but should continue to be offered.

## Opportunities

Given that introductory courses have proven so attractive to students, the Committee found it curious that POSC 2500 (Introduction to Political Behaviour) is comparatively so unpopular. Staffing issues led to it not being offered in 2005 and only six students took the course in 2006. The Committee suggested that one consequence of this is that few students are being prepared for the third year methods courses (3010 or 3011) and that since methods courses may be considered as a lynchpin for the scientific side of a political science degree, concerted efforts should be made to stimulate enrolment in this area.

The Committee found that there are a number of other courses that present an opportunity because they have experienced periodic popularity. In particular, 3140 (Feminist Political Theory) and 3360 (The Military and Politics) have attracted students in the past although they have not been offered in over five years. The Committee recommended that efforts should be made to identify instructors who can deliver them. There are also courses (such as 3511) which have been inconsistent in their delivery and enrolment; two others (3770 and 4313) have had declining enrolment. With some review perhaps decisions can be made about how to stabilize these courses. Finally, there are two

environmental policy courses (3550 and 3731) delivered only at Grenfell College and the Committee suggested that if they could be delivered by distance, St. John's campus students could enrol.

### ***Political Science in 2007***

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee concluded that, in their view, the APR process is an opportunity to bring different ideas and interests together. Curriculums are about teaching, but the courses we teach, and how we teach them, influence the pace and direction of research also. To succeed in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent world of teaching-research, there is a need to find new ways to collaborate, form common visions, partnerships, and build the kind of capacity for addressing the new realities of academic life. The Committee's presentation of key issues and challenges was intended to provide the kind of information required to assist the process of restructuring and to construct a new vision.

In carrying out their investigation, several issues and challenges emerged. First, there is strong empirical evidence to suggest that the Department is not facing a state of crisis. Even though there appears to be much interest and pressure to increase the research profile of the unit, there is strong evidence that enrolment has continued to increase. Even though the Committee's mandate was not to focus on the research output of the Department, any such investigation will need to consider teaching-administrative workloads in the Department, compared with other units in the country or region. From the Committee's perspective, there is little empirical evidence to support the argument that radical changes to the undergraduate curriculum are necessary. Rather, while some updating is required, there is a strong argument for a series of rational, incremental changes.

The Committee provided both qualitative and quantitative empirical evidence in order to facilitate discussion and the rise of a new vision capable of bridging research and teaching expectations and values. In the process, areas of consensus were identified, such as the need to expand the size of first-year classes, establish more 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year courses, update course descriptions, and eliminate courses considered redundant. These changes could be brought about very quickly within existing structures. However, until the hiring process is complete, it would be difficult to make such important, but still incremental decisions.

The Committee also recognized that concerted work is required for our students and future research. The challenge of building research capacity emerged in the review of the undergraduate curriculum, both as a device for maintenance and recruitment of academic staff, and also in discussions over the need to increase research output.

The one area in the curriculum program which appears to be in crisis is the methods section. Whether it is the way we teach these courses, or that students are simply not interested in methods, there is a major problem with the current framework, and a need to come together and solve it. But it is not a problem that will be easily resolved, since

there are competing objectives involved. On the one hand, the fact that we have few prerequisites (including in the area of methods) might be attractive to many students and may partially explain our high enrolments. If we were to change these requirements, we may see declining enrolments. On the other hand, increasing research capacity, particularly in the area of public policy, requires our students to learn both quantitative and qualitative techniques.

In the Committee's view, there is a need to ensure that our Political Science students are learning both quantitative and qualitative techniques. However, it may be possible, comparable with writing courses, to design courses that build in methods training. In that way, students may feel more comfortable applying frameworks in practice. We, on the other hand, will be creating research capacity within the Department and, consequently, within government and society.

## **Additional Information on Undergraduate Student Enrolment and Degrees Awarded**

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee reviewed and analyzed individual course enrolment over a ten-year period. Memorial University's Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning provides aggregate data for the previous five years on an annual basis. The information below has been taken from their most recent report covering the 2005-06 academic year.<sup>6</sup>

Over the 2001-02 to 2005-06 period, the number of 1000-level Political Science course registrations increased from 921 to 1,127 (22.4%) while the number of senior undergraduate (2000, 3000, and 4000) Political Science course registrations increased from 1,168 to 1,807 (54.7%). During this same time period, the number of full-time undergraduate Political Science majors increased from 102 to 162 (58.8%) and the number of undergraduate Political Science degrees awarded increased from 39 to 42 (7.7%). It could be anticipated that as the increased number of majors (114 in 2004 and 142 in 2005) complete their degree requirements, that the number of students graduating with a B.A. Political Science major will similarly increase.

Unfortunately, CIAP does not provide information about the number of Political Science minors, but information obtained through office of the Dean of Arts indicates that the number of Political Science minors increased from 44 in 2001-02 to 92 in 2005-06.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, while CIAP does not publish the number of Honours students by Department, we were able to get information on this from the Registrar's Office for the period 1981 to 2006.<sup>8</sup> The total number of students who have graduated with an Honours degree in Political Science in that period is 110, but it is noteworthy that the number has increased

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., pp. 32-33.

<sup>7</sup> Faculty of Arts, *Artsdata 2005-2006* (St. John's: Dean of Arts Office, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 2006). See Appendix 3.

<sup>8</sup> The Department would like to thank Glen Perfect of the Registrar's Office for his help in obtaining this information.

from 4 in 2001 to 12 in 2006. According to records kept by the Head of Department, there are currently 22 students registered in the Honours program, of which 17 are active.

In sum, it can be seen that the Department's undergraduate program is very healthy with an increasing number of minors, majors, and Honours students choosing to specialize in Political Science.

## **Undergraduate Student Exchanges**

The Department of Political Science has taken the lead in establishing exchange programs for its students. In 1996-1997, Dr. Steven Wolinetz organized a consortium of three Canadian universities (Memorial, Calgary, and Laurentian) and four European Universities (Limerick, Leiden, Uppsala and Robert Gordon University), which applied for and received a Canada-EC mobility grant on the politics of multilevel systems of governance. The contract had two components: exchange of at least seven students per year from Canadian to European universities and *vice versa*, and attempts to simulate European Union decision-making via the internet and teleconference facilities.

Of the two components, the exchanges were far more successful. In the four to five years through which funding could be extended, twenty to twenty five Memorial students were able to spend a semester at one of the European partner institutions, and we, in turn, received students primarily from Limerick and Uppsala. These exchanges continued on a bilateral basis after the expiration of the original contract. The agreement with Limerick was renewed in 2006, and the agreement with Uppsala is in the process of being renewed.

In contrast, simulations over the internet proved more difficult to implement than had been anticipated. Although it proved possible to simulate decision-making with students in Calgary, St. John's, and Limerick via the internet and teleconference, the instructors involved, Dr. Steven Wolinetz (Memorial), Dr. Gretchen MacMillan (Calgary) and Dr. Nicholas Rees (Limerick) concluded that benefits fell well short of the commitment in time and resources required with the then available technology and bandwidth.

Instructors involved in the exchange program are Dr. Steven Wolinetz, Dr. Osvaldo Croci, and in 2006-07, Mr. Jeff Loder.

## **Graduate Curriculum and Teaching**

### **Overview**

The Political Science Department reopened its MA program in 1993 after having suspended admissions for eight years. The old program had never been especially successful, drawing very few students. However, the new program has done quite well. By the end of the 2006 academic year, 99 students had enrolled in the Masters', eight of

whom are still active. Of the remaining 91, 66 have completed degrees, a completion rate of 72.5 percent. Further, although the program began modestly, admitting four to nine students per year during its first six years, we have been able to expand our annual intake to ten full-time admissions in each of 2005 and 2006. A series of reforms to the original model have permitted both the high completion rate and the recent increase in admissions.

## ***Key Dates***

- 1993* The program reopens. The suspended program had focused entirely on Newfoundland and Atlantic Canadian politics, principally to limit applications and allow faculty to dedicate more time to undergraduate teaching. The new program accepted candidates interested in any of the fields in which the Department possessed expertise. This was a conventional two-year, plus thesis, program.
- 1998* A one-year, non-thesis option requiring a comprehensive examination is added. This put our MA on the same footing as those offered at the majority of other universities across Canada. By doing so, we acknowledged that the Political Science MA was no longer principally a research degree. This let us attract students wishing to do further work in Political Science in order to better prepare themselves for entry into the job market.
- 2004* The thesis option becomes a one-year program and a one-year internship program replaces the comprehensives as the non-thesis route. Now in its third year, the internship option has proven generally successful; however, students attempting the one-year thesis option have encountered some difficulties. The entire program will be evaluated in 2007-2008, after its third year of operation.

## ***Important Changes Since 1993***

### **Students**

Two points stand out here. First, the number of students applying to the program has risen dramatically. In the mid-1990s ten applicants per year would have been a lot. For both 2005 and 2006 the number of applicants was around 40. With more applicants the pool of well qualified students has grown, letting us increase annual admissions from five or six to ten. Further, while the MA drew mainly graduates from MUN and other Atlantic Canadian universities in its first few years, it now attracts students from around the world.

## Faculty

When the program reopened there was no special recognition given to graduate teaching or supervision. Now, as a result of the Faculty of Arts teaching equivalency policy, faculty receive compensation for supervising MA theses and for teaching graduate courses. The latter facilitates teaching graduate courses as part of regular load, even though this is limited in practice due to staffing shortages.

### ***The Current MA Program***

There are two options, thesis and internship, both of which can be done in one year, full-time. The thesis option involves six courses and the completion of a thesis. The thesis itself is relatively short: 20,000-words is the guideline.

The internship requires seven courses (one of which is a major paper), and a full-time, paid internship during the Spring semester. Most internships are with the provincial government, which has been very cooperative and most helpful in setting up the program, but students have also been placed with municipal governments, the federal government, and not-for-profit agencies. One of the requirements for the internship option is the completion of a major analytical paper, about 12,000-words in length, which is done during the same term when the student completes her or his internship. To facilitate completing this paper, students enroll in Political Science 6031, Applied Political Research, which takes them through the process of preparing a major research project.

### ***Issues for the Future***

#### Dedicated graduate courses

In the Fall semester of 2006, for the first time ever, all our MA students were enrolled in dedicated graduate seminars. However, to do so two faculty members had to teach overload.

In the past, we have been unable to mount enough MA-level courses, with the result that many students had to take undergraduate courses for graduate credit. In and of itself and on an occasional basis, having a graduate student registered in an undergraduate course is unexceptional. However, if most students have to take most of their graduate program in this way there is something amiss.

We believe that the problem has three roots. First, the Department needs more personnel, perhaps two or three additional faculty. Second, we need to take a stricter stand and simply not allow graduate students into undergraduate courses, save in very special circumstances. Third, this may all hinge on a restructured undergraduate program that frees up more time for more faculty to teach more graduate courses.



## Expansion of the internship option

To expand beyond six or seven internships per year we would have to send students to Ottawa. The problem is that the internship demands a “major analytical paper,” the principal requirement for POSC 6031 (Applied Political Research). This course is a co-requisite of the internship proper, thus it is completed in the summer when the internship is done. The paper is large (40 pages, 12,000 words), requires applying Political Science concepts or methods to an issue that is related to the intern’s placement, and needs a substantial amount of supervision. Whether this is feasible for students doing an internship in another city is an open question. At a minimum, it would require having available teleconference facilities for at least half of the seminar meetings.

## Funding issues

The question here has two sides. The first is the general availability of funds, which is now adequate. The second is the division of those funds into fellowship and assistantship pools; the former is administered by SGS, the latter by the Faculty of Arts. As fellowship money is only allocated to students with an overall average of 75 over the last three years of study, we have at times been unable to offer reasonable packages to good students. Consequently, we have lost students to, *inter alia*, Queen’s, Alberta, and Windsor.

## Adding a public policy and administration stream

Given that we have an internship option it is natural to think in terms of a Master’s in public policy and administration. This is an option that should be kept in mind over the next few years when hiring. It should also be borne in mind that public policy and administration specialists need not be Canadianists.

## What about a doctorate?

Given the university’s commitment to expanding graduate studies, it is likely that the Department will be asked to consider a PhD. We should consider our options in this regard. However, it seems wisest to defer acting on this question until the personnel changes pending over the next five years are settled.

## **Conclusion**

The Department is satisfied with the operation of its MA program. Obviously, it seeks to improve that program and will have to think seriously about the mid-range shape and direction of its graduate offerings in making personnel decisions over the next three to five years. In particular, the Department must consider how and how much to expand the internship program, especially if it chooses to add an MA in the area of public policy and administration. At that point it would be appropriate for the Department to consider if it wishes to offer a PhD.

## Faculty Research

The Department does not have a specific research focus nor has it tried to direct research along specific lines of inquiry or areas of study. Rather, the Department has sought to encourage faculty members to pursue research of their own interests in their individual areas of specialization. As mentioned earlier in this report, the Department's research productivity for much of the 1960s to 1990s was modest. In recent years, research productivity has increased. For instance, in the past two years (2004-06) faculty members in the Department authored one book, published 24 chapters in edited books, edited four books, and published eight articles in refereed journals. Several faculty members are currently collaborating in multi-year research projects with colleagues in other departments and universities, while others are in the final stages of preparing book manuscripts. Members of the Department have also served on provincial commissions, task forces, and are involved in a variety of community services. The following brief summary of recent selected activities will highlight the research and community work of Department members as well as showing the breadth of the Department's research activities.

**Dr. Stephen Bornstein** has been the Director of the Centre for Applied Health Research since joining the Department in 1999 and his research has focused on health policy. His most recent publications include a co-authored report, "The Newfoundland and Labrador Physicians' Strike of 2002" to the provincial Department of Health and Community Services (2004) and a report to the Rural and Northern Health Strategic Research Initiative of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research entitled "Indicators for the Health of Canada's Rural Communities" (2004). Dr. Bornstein is also the co-applicant or co-investigator for several major research grants.

Although he officially retired from the university in August, 2005 due to the then-mandatory retirement policy, **Dr. Peter Boswell** has served as Interim Head of the Department since that time under contract. He specializes in municipal government and Newfoundland politics and has written widely on these topics. At the request of the provincial Municipal Affairs Department, he produced the first edition of *The Municipal Councillor's Handbook* in 1988 and completed a second edition in 2001 to incorporate new municipal legislation. He has written several chapters on municipal government for edited books, the most recent being "Municipal Renewal in Newfoundland: a Tradition of Practical Evolution" in Garcea and Lesage's *Municipal Reforms in Canada: Dimensions, Dynamics, and Determinants* (Oxford, 2005). Dr. Boswell also wrote a weekly column on politics for the Evening Telegram (1988-1998) and served as a member of the provincial Constitution Committee (1991-92) and as a member of the provincial Task Force on Municipal Regionalization (1997). He is in the final stages of writing a book on Newfoundland elections, *From Joey to Danny: Newfoundland Elections from 1949-2007*, scheduled for publication in early 2008.

Although his research has focused primarily on central and Latin America, **Dr. David Close** co-authored an introductory text book in 2005 entitled *Politics, Power and the Common Good: An Introduction to Politics*. A second edition is planned for 2007. He

also co-edited and wrote chapters in a 2004 book *Undoing Democracy: the Politics of Electoral Caudillismo* and was sole author of *Nicaragua: The Chamorro Years* (1999). In addition to several other works in preparation, Dr. Close is writing *Latin American Politics: An Introduction* for publication in 2008. Dr. Close also serves as a board member of numerous organizations and has been a consultant to the National Democratic Institute. He has also been active with the provincial Community Services Council and is currently preparing an appraisal of Newfoundland's Strategic Social Plan.

**Dr. Osvaldo Croci** co-authored an introductory text book in 2005 entitled *Politics, Power and the Common Good: An Introduction to Politics*. A second edition is planned for 2007. He also co-edited and wrote chapters in two books: *The European Union in the wake of Eastern enlargement. Institutional and policy-making challenges* (2005) and *The Transatlantic Divide: Foreign and security policies in the Atlantic Alliance from Kosovo to Iraq* (2006). He has written various book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles on various aspects of Italian and Canadian foreign and security policies, as well as on transatlantic (EU-USA) security relations, and the politics of international sport organizations. He is currently working on the issue of Europeanism vs. Atlanticism in Italian foreign policy and on the question of legitimacy in international sport organizations seen as a subgroup of international nongovernmental organizations.

**Dr. Christopher Dunn** is currently resurrecting an old comparativist tradition in academic studies in this country, the notion of the "North Atlantic Triangle." It used to be common practice for university students to be taught with reference to the governmental systems and cultural norms of America, Canada and the United Kingdom. This custom fell to the wayside some years ago, but it is time to return to it in academic circles. For one thing, the real world never left the tradition: public security laws, the New Public Management, defence issues, The Third Way, all featured US/Canada/UK leadership. For another, the publics of the three countries have a great deal of regard for each other; it is time academics reflect this. Dr. Dunn is also editing a collection on federal and provincial deputy ministers in Canada that has a comparative element to it and plans to include American, British and OECD material in this collection. Dr. Dunn's recent publications include: *Provinces: Canadian Provincial Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2006); *The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2002); *Federal Representation of the People and Government of Newfoundland and Labrador*, A Research and Analysis Paper commissioned by the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (St. John's: The Commission, June 2003; "Urban Aysmmetry and Provincial Mediation of Federal-Municipal Relations in Newfoundland and Labrador," in Robert Young and Christan Leuprecht, eds., *Municipal-Federal-Provincial Relations in Canada/Canada: The State of the Federation 2004* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006); and "The Persistence of the Institutionalized Cabinet: The Central Executive in Newfoundland and Labrador" in Luc Bernier, Keith Brownsey and Michael Howlett, eds., *Executive Styles in Canada: Cabinet Decision-Making Structures and Practices at the Federal and Provincial Levels*, volume 1 in the IPAC-sponsored series "Governing the Provinces: Administrative Styles

in the Political Executives and Public Services of Canada's Provinces'. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005).

**Dr. Alex Marland** became an Assistant Professor in 2006 after having worked full-time in communications and marketing research in the public, private, and political sectors in Ottawa and St. John's. He completed his PhD on communications in Canadian federal elections while employed with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and while he was a per-course instructor with the Department. As such, Dr. Marland has recently resumed his research program, having previously published articles looking at the wisdom of selling political candidates like soap in the *Journal of Public Affairs* and authoring the Canadian chapter in the book *Political Marketing in Comparative Perspective*. His current research is examining what political scientists can learn from TV's *Canadian Idol* and he is analyzing candidates' communications suppliers in Canadian elections. He will also be writing the Canadian chapter for a forthcoming book dealing with international political marketing. Dr. Marland happens to be an alumnus of the Department's M.A. program

**Dr. Bill McGrath's** research previously focused on Soviet politics. He has a continued research interest in post-Soviet Russia, but presently is working on a project which examines "nationalism" in the past development of Canadian foreign policy. Dr. McGrath has written a chapter entitled "Canada on the Road to and From Kosovo" in *Transatlantic Divide: Foreign and Security Policies in the Atlantic Alliance – Kosovo to Iraq*, O. Croci and A. Verdun (eds.) Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 2006.

**Dr. Stephen Tomblin** is a professor in the Department of Political Science and Medicine (Community Health) at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In addition to administrative service in the political science Department, Dr. Tomblin has served as the Principal Investigator for the Atlantic Regional Training Centre. As the result of a Canadian Health Services Research Foundation Career Renewal Award, Dr. Tomblin has begun linking earlier research on regionalization (dealing with economic development, continentalism, and other cross-border issues) with health restructuring developments, including efforts to devolve power on a regional basis. He has published widely on the issue of regional integration. See, for example, *Assessing Outcomes Produced by Regionalization Systems of Governance* that will be published in *Canadian Public Administration*, Volume 50, 2007. In 1995, he authored *Ottawa and the Outer Provinces: The Challenges of Regional Integration in Canada*, published by Lorimer Press. He co-edited and contributed to *Regionalism in a Global Society: Persistence and Change in Atlantic Canada and New England*, published by Broadview Press. He has produced discussion papers for the Romanow Commission and the Newfoundland and Labrador Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada. Both of these were peer-reviewed and the Romanow discussion paper has been published by University of Toronto Press. Dr. Tomblin has benefited from participating in various collaborative/interdisciplinary research projects. These include: Social Sciences and Humanities Council (SSHRC) - sponsored Challenges and Opportunities of the Knowledge-based Economy in Newfoundland and Labrador; SSHRC- Natural Science

and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) - sponsored Coasts Under Stress Project; Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) Health Human Resources Study; SSHRC-sponsored Multilevel governance and public policy in Canadian municipalities project; the Canadian Institutes of Health Research-sponsored health care reform project; the CHSRF Evaluation of EXTRA/Knowledge Brokering Initiatives; CIHR project on A New Direction: Canadian Lessons from International experiences with Strategic Planning; OECD project on Higher education institutions in Atlantic Canada; and the Harris Centre project on Regional Governance. Each of these projects has a restructuring/regionalization component. More recently, as a result of participating in the Political Communications in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a colloquium hosted by Otago University, New Zealand, Dr. Tomblin has begun linking research on New Zealand and Australia with other projects.

**Dr. Reeta Tremblay** joined the Department in 2006 simultaneous with her appointment as Dean of Arts. Prior to her move to St. John's, she was a political science professor at Concordia University in Montreal where she chaired the Political Science Department from 1998-2005. Her areas of research include comparative public policy, comparative federalism, nation-state and secessionist movements in South Asia and Indian Popular Cinema. Her work, particularly on Kashmir and India and Pakistan relations, has been widely reviewed and cited. She is a member of the editorial boards of several prestigious journals in Political Science and Asian Studies. Her recent publications include *Human Rights: A General Overview* (2007), *Mapping the Political Landscape* (2004, 2006) and she is the author of several essays including articles and reviews in many journals.

**Professor Michael Wallack's** recent work reflects his interest in foreign policy, political theory and the philosophy of science. Publications include "Justice between generations: the limits of procedural justice" in *Handbook of Intergenerational Justice*, J. Tremmel (ed.) Cheltenham, UK and Northampton MA, USA: Edward Elgar, 2006); "From compellence to pre-emption: Kosovo and Iraq as US responses to contested hegemony" in *Transatlantic Divide: Foreign and Security Policies in the Atlantic Alliance – Kosovo to Iraq*, O. Croci and A. Verdun (eds.) Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 2006; "The minimum irreversible harm principle: Green Inter-generational Liberalism" in *Liberal Democracy and Environmentalism: the end of environmentalism? ECPR European Political Science Series*, Marcel Wissenburg and Yoram Levy (eds), London: Routledge, 2004). As an invited participant for the last eight years in a yearly Symposium on the Treatment and Prevention of Alzheimer's disease, hosted by Dr. Kenneth Rockwood at Dalhousie University, Prof. Wallack has developed an interest in methodological, philosophical, and ethical problems encountered in medical research. This has led to a publication, "The treatment of Alzheimer's disease: success short of cure", Rockwood K; Wallack M; Tallis R, *Lancet Neurol* - 01-OCT-2003; 2(10): 630-3, and two invited conference papers: "Cognitive Reserve: Evolution and Adaptation of an Explanatory Concept", prepared for presentation at the Ninth Annual Symposium on the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, October 19-21 2006. Wolfville, Nova Scotia; and "Phenomenology, Neurophenomenology and Supervenience" prepared for presentation at the Sixth Annual Symposium on the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, 26-29 November 2003, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A new member of the Department, **Dr. Russell Alan Williams'** research primarily focuses on the impact of globalisation and international political economy on Canadian public policy. He has published a number of articles and chapters on trade, banking, and labour market policy. Most recently his work has touched on the role of the OECD in global economic governance and has three book chapters pending on the OECD *Jobs Strategy* and OECD investment liberalisation initiatives. He currently has a book length manuscript on the politics of the Canadian financial Services sector, and an article on the Canada/US Softwood lumber dispute under preparation. Dr. Williams also researches and writes on Canadian federalism and Canadian electoral reform, having recently published an article in the *American Review of Canadian Studies* on electoral malapportionment.

**Dr. Steven B. Wolinetz** carries out research in the areas of comparative and European politics, with special emphasis on the politics of smaller democracies and parties in party systems in Europe, North America and, increasingly, countries in other parts of the world with competitive or semi-competitive elections. His interests range both narrowly and more broadly. Having completed his Ph.D. on changes underway in the Dutch party system in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Wolinetz makes a point of following developments in the Netherlands and writes on subjects as diverse as partnership among unions, business, and government, long term political change and, more recently, how the Dutch are responding to the strains of multiculturalism. Trained to think comparatively, and aware that teaching at Memorial demanded a broader range of expertise, Dr. Wolinetz tracks developments elsewhere in Europe (including the European Union, as well as Canada and the United States, incorporating these where relevant into teaching and research. His 1979 *West European Politics* article, "The Transformation of Western European Party Systems Revisited" is considered to be seminal in the parties literature. More recent work includes "Modell Nederland: Social Partnership and Competitive Corporatism in the Netherlands," in Nancy Bermeo, ed., *Unemployment in the New Europe*, "Beyond the Catch-all Party: Approaches to the Study of Parties and Party Organization in Contemporary Democracies"; "Canada: Executive Dominance and Presidentialization" (with Herman Bakvis), "Disconnected Competition in Canada" (with R. Kenneth Carty), and a forthcoming review article, "Coping with Cornucopia: The Parties Literature in 2006," invited for the November, 2007 review number of the *International Political Science Review*. Dr. Wolinetz is writing a book, *Political Parties and Party Systems in the New Millennium*, for Oxford University Press. Reflecting forty years of studying parties and party systems in settings as diverse as Europe and the European Union, Canada, and the United States, this is a broad critique of the comparative parties literature and the categories and suppositions which inform it. Derived, in particular, from the ways in which parties and party systems evolved in Europe, these are inadequate for the comparative study of parties in settings as diverse as Canada, the United States, or countries which have transited from authoritarian rule to more open, competitive politics." Dr. Wolinetz has also been active within the Canadian Political Science Association, and was the co-founder and first president of the European Community Association – Canada.

## Funded Research

Many members of the Department have been successful in obtaining external funding for their research. The table below shows the grants awarded to members of the department as **principal investigators** during the years 2002-03 to 2006-07.<sup>9</sup>

Name	Year	Amount	Source	Project
Tomblin	2002-03	\$15,000.00	CDN HLTH SVS RES FND	CHSRF/CIHR Career Reorientation Award
Tomblin	2002-03	\$15,000.00	CIHR	CHSRF/CIHR Career Reorientation Award
Wolinetz	2002-03	\$4,185.00	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Jean Monnet Project
Fournier	2003-04	\$780.00	HRDC	Political events in Newfoundland and Labrador since January 2003
Tomblin	2003-04	\$11,000.00	SSHRC	Multilevel governance and public policy in Canadian Municipalities
Tomblin	2003-04	\$27,432.70	CIHR	A cross-provincial comparison of health care policy reform in Canada
Wolinetz	2003-04	\$4,185.00	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	European studies 2000 - Europe in the 20th-century
Wolinetz	2003-04	\$130,185.00	DFAIT	Youth international internships
Fournier	2004-05	\$780.00	HRDC	Youth and politics in Newfoundland and Labrador
Tomblin	2004-05	\$3,000.00	HEALTH CAN	A cross-provincial comparison of health care policy reform in Canada
Tomblin	2004-05	\$14,986.00	CAPITAL DIST HLTH A	Nursing human resources modelling: challenging the past, creating the future
Tomblin	2004-05	\$30,000.00	CIHR	A cross-provincial comparison of health care policy reform in Canada
Wolinetz	2004-05	\$195,000.00	DFAIT	Youth international internships
Close	2005-06	\$5,500.00	SSHRC	Implementing the strategic social plan
Dunn	2005-06	\$6,667.00	SSHRC	St. John's Study

<sup>9</sup> The Department greatly appreciates the assistance of Theresa Heath, Grants Facilitator (Social Sciences & Humanities) with the Office of Research, for her help in compiling the grants data in this and the following section.

Tomblin	2005-06	\$5,000.00	SSHRC	Multilevel governance and public policy in Canadian Municipalities
Tomblin	2005-06	\$7,500.00	CIHR	A cross-provincial comparison of health care policy reform in Canada
Wolinetz	2005-06	\$105,000.00	DFAIT	Youth international internships
Dunn	2006-07	\$6,667.00	SSHRC	St. John's Study
Tremblay	2006-07	\$30,040.00	SSHRC	The ties that unbind: kin-state relations and insurgency in Asai

Members of the department also received grants as co-investigators and co-applicants. The table below shows the grants awarded to members of the department in the categories of **co-investigators and co-applicants** during 2002-03 to 2006-07.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Project</b>
Croci	2002-03	\$4,185.00	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	European studies 2000 - Europe in the 20th-century
Lawson	2002-03	\$50,000.00	CIHR	Eastern Canada consortium on workplace health and safety
Tomblin	2002-03	\$330,896.00	NSERC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Tomblin	2002-03	\$353,524.00	SSHRC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Croci	2003-04	\$4,185.00	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	European studies 2000 - Europe in the 20th-century
Lawson	2003-04	\$200,000.00	CIHR	Eastern Canada consortium on workplace health and safety
Tomblin	2003-04	\$239,187.00	SSHRC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Tomblin	2003-04	\$255,749.00	NSERC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Lawson	2004-05	\$79,000.00	CIHR	Eastern Canada consortium on workplace health and safety



Tomblin	2004-05	\$71,499.00	SSHRC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Tomblin	2004-05	\$176,759.00	NSERC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Lawson	2005-06	\$240,333.00	CIHR	Eastern Canada consortium on workplace health and safety
Tomblin	2005-06	\$122,816.00	SSHRC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Tomblin	2005-06	\$126,100.00	NSERC	Coasts under stress: the impact of social and environmental restructuring on environmental and human health in Canada
Wolinetz	2005-06	\$49,500.00	EDUCATION, DEPT OF	Enhancement and expansion of the Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage web site

In addition to the grants summarized above, Dr. Stephen Bornstein is a co-applicant or co-investigator in the following ongoing grants which are administered through the Faculty of Medicine. The **total amount of project funding** is provided in the table.

Bornstein	Co-applicant	CCOHTA	99,793	Enhancing HTA Understanding and Utilization
Bornstein	Co-investigator	RCD	570,000	Reconfiguring physical and social environments to improve health
Bornstein	Co-investigator	RCD	600,000	The changing physical and social landscape in Atlantic Rural Canada
Bornstein	Co-investigator	ICE	1,000,000	Eastern Canada Consortium on Workplace Health and Safety

## Professional and Community Service

One measure of local, national, and international recognition of a Department's faculty members is their level of professional and community service. Members of the Department of Political Science members have been very active in service to the discipline, the university, and the community at large. Set out below are some highlights of this activity.

### ***National peer review Committees***

- Dr. David Close has served on the SSHRC grants evaluation Committee and is currently serving as a proposal assessor.
- Dr. Osvaldo Croci has served as an external evaluator for SSHRC and as a member of the Comité d'évaluation des demandes de subvention pour le program 'Etablissement de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs' (2005) et 'Soutien aux équipes de recherche' (2006) du 'Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture', Québec, and evaluation des demandes de subvention pour le program 'Fonds pour la formation de chercheurs et l'aide à la recherche' (FCAR), Québec.
- Dr. Bill McGrath has served as an SSFC manuscript reviewer.
- Dr. Reeta Tremblay has refereed grant applications for the SSHRC, FCAR, FQRSC, and the Shastri Institute India Studies Fellowships.

### ***Editorial and governing boards***

- Several Department members, including Dr. Peter Boswell, Dr. David Close, Dr. Christopher Dunn, Dr. Bill McGrath, and Dr. Steven Wolinetz have served on the Canadian Political Science Association Board or Directors. Drs. Boswell, Close, Dunn, and McGrath have also served on the Atlantic Provinces Political Studies Association executive, and Dr. Wolinetz has served as president of the European Community Studies Association - Canada.
- Dr. Peter Boswell has served on the editorial advisory boards of the *Urban History Review* and *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* and as a manuscript reviewer for Oxford University Press and Thompson Nelson.
- Dr. David Close had served on several editorial boards, including the Journal of Conflict Studies, North-South, and the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
- Dr. Osvaldo Croci has served as journal editor and book review editor for *Italian Politics and Society* and as article evaluator for several other journals as well as a manuscript assessor for Routledge and Nelson Canada. He also served on the editorial boards of the *International Journal of Peace Studies* and *Modern Italy*.
- Dr. Christopher Dunn has assessed book manuscripts for publishers including Thompson Nelson Canada, University of Toronto, and the University of Alberta. He has also been a member of the editorial advisory board of the Canadian Journal of Political Science and a member of the research Committee of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

- Dr. Bill McGrath has served as President of the Canadian Association of Slavists and as co-author of a project report for the Bureau of Assistance for Eastern Europe conducted for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He has also served as a manuscript reviewer for Oxford University Press and Thompson Nelson.
- Dr. Stephen Tomblin serves as a board member of the Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization.
- Dr. Reeta Tremblay is an editorial board member of the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, *PS Political Science*, *Pacific Affairs* (UBC), Malviya Peace Institute, and the *Journal of Contemporary South Asian Affairs*. She is also an editorial advisory board member for the International Encyclopedia of Political Science. Dr. Tremblay was president of the Canadian Association for Asian Studies (2005-06) and past president of the Canadian Council of Area Studies of Learned Societies.
- Dr. Russell Williams has served as editorial assistant for the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* and as a board member of the British Columbia Political Studies Association.
- Dr. Steven Wolinetz has refereed manuscripts for the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Party Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Western European Politics*, *Government and Opposition*, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Thompson Nelson.

### **Conferences and meetings**

- A number of faculty members have made presentations as invited guest speakers at national and international conferences. These include Dr. Stephen Bornstein, Dr. David Close, Dr. Osvaldo Croci, Dr. Christopher Dunn, and Dr. Stephen Tomblin.
- Many Department members have organized panels and sections for academic societies such as the Canadian Political Science Association, Canadian Society for Italian Studies, the Global Political Economy Study Commission of the International Peace Research Association, European Community Studies Association, and the Association of Canadian Studies.

### **Community service**

- The Department has organized several public panel discussions on topics of current interest together with the CBC and, on occasion, the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development. Recent examples include panels on political report cards, untangling the Atlantic Accord, the Martin versus the Williams approach to taking over government, and Politics and the Media.
- Dr. Peter Boswell has been invited to give a number of speeches and papers to provincial municipal organizations, served as a member of the provincial Constitutional Committee and the Task Force on Municipal Regionalization, and has consulted for a variety of municipal governments as well as for the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs. He has also been a regular commentator on local and national politics for radio, television, and print media.

- Dr. David Close serves as a public affairs commentator to Radio Canada and Radio Canada International, as well as a commentator on Nicaragua and Central America for the Washington Office on Latin America.
- Dr. Osvaldo Croci has been interviewed by local, national, and international media including Radio France International, CBC radio, Rai 3-Trieste-Italy, and KVMR-FM Radio, Nevada City, California.
- Dr. Christopher Dunn is currently serving as a member of the provincial government's Review Commission on Constituency Allowances and Related Matters.
- Dr. Stephen Tomblin is a regular contributor to local and national media outlets and moderated the televised leaders' debates during the last two provincial elections.
- Dr. Reeta Tremblay is a regular contributor to national radio and print media as a commentator on India and the Kashmir situation.
- Dr. Steven Wolinetz has served as vice-president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Home and School Federation.

### ***University Service***

- Several Department members have chaired or served on Headship Review Committees for other Departments of the university, including Dr. Peter Boswell (English, German and Russian).
- All members of the Department have served on Departmental Committees.
- Several members of the Department, including Drs. Osvaldo Croci, Christopher Dunn, and Steven Wolinetz, have organized semester-length programs at the Harlow campus.
- Dr. David Close has been the Department's Graduate Coordinator for many years and was instrumental in establishing the undergraduate and graduate internship programs.
- Dr. Osvaldo Croci and Dr. Stephen Wolinetz were instrumental in organizing an exchange program between Memorial University and Laurentian University, University of Calgary, Leiden University, Uppsala University, and Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland. Dr. Croci also recently organized an exchange program between Memorial and the Università di Bologna-Forli.
- Dr. Stephen Tomblin is a member of the admissions Committee for the Faculty of Medicine.
- Dr. Reeta Tremblay is currently serving as Dean of Arts and a member of the university's mandatory retirement Committee, and Dean of Science search Committee. Prior to starting her appointment at Memorial in September 2006, Dr. Tremblay had served as Chair of the Department of Political Science at Concordia University and had served on numerous Committees and bodies at the university.
- Dr. Steven Wolinetz has served as Head of the Department of Political Science, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts, a member of the steering Committee on the Strategic Planning Process, member of the University Senate, member and chair of the Senate Committee on Committees member of the Senate Planning and Budget Committee, chair of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee to Respond to the White Paper on Post-Secondary Education and Cost Recovery Courses and Programs, and a large number of other university Committees.

# Department Organization and Administrative Support

## ***Administrative Organization***

The Head of Department is responsible for all administrative matters and is responsible both to the Dean of Arts and members of the Department. The powers, duties, and activities of the Head are governed by the Collective Agreement<sup>10</sup> and the Department's Rules and Procedures.<sup>11</sup> The Head is assisted in the administration of the Department by several standing Committees and Departmental Officers.

- The Executive Committee consists of the Head as Chair, the Chair of the Curriculum Committee, the Graduate Coordinator, and one other Department member elected at large. The Executive Committee meets only when required, usually to consider personnel issues or to advise the Head on other matters as necessary.
- The Curriculum Committee is composed of a Chairperson elected annually and two additional members appointed by the Head. The Committee is responsible for evaluating any requests for new undergraduate courses or for any revisions to course titles or descriptions. The Committee is also responsible for advising the Head on annual course offerings, timetables, and teaching assignments. Periodically, as requested by the Department, the Curriculum Committee will undertake a comprehensive review of the undergraduate curriculum.
- The Graduate Committee consists of the annually-elected Coordinator of Graduate Studies who chairs the Committee and two other members of the Department appointed by the Head. The Graduate Committee is responsible for the operation of the Department's graduate program, including recommendations for admission and funding, the individual programs of students, scheduling of courses, assignment of faculty advisors, and recommendations for the approval of graduate degrees.
- The Coordinator of First-Year Studies is responsible for coordinating the Department's 1000-level courses with the University's Academic Advising Centre and implementing departmental policy regarding first-year courses.
- The Department also has a University Library Coordinator and a Colloquium Coordinator who are appointed by the Head.

The Departmental Rules and Procedures also govern the conduct of Department meetings as well who is eligible to attend and vote. The Rules and Procedures are required to be reviewed annually.

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<sup>10</sup> Memorial University of Newfoundland, *Collective Agreement Between Memorial University of Newfoundland and Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association July 25, 2003 - August 31, 2005*.

<sup>11</sup> Department of Political Science Memorial University of Newfoundland, *Department of Political Science Rules and Procedures, Amended September 2006.*, 2006. Attached as Appendix 4.

## ***Administrative Support Staff***

The Department has been very well-served since its inception by the very high quality of its administrative secretaries, most of whom have held the position for fairly lengthy periods of time. For example, our current administrative secretary, Helen Knapman, has been with the Department since 1990. Despite the efficiency and professionalism of our secretaries, the Department has felt the need for a second administrative position for a number of years. In their annual budget submissions since the early 1980s, successive Department Heads have stressed the need for a second secretary. As student numbers grew and as technology changed, it became increasingly obvious that one administrative person could not be expected to handle the filing, correspondence, student enquiries, and faculty requests.

The trend toward increased administrative work was exacerbated by computer technology and downloading of tasks from administrative Departments within the University. E-mail, for example, takes up a considerable amount of time just in deleting, replying, and forwarding the daily blitz of messages. Keeping the Departmental web pages and electronic telephone listings up-to-date is also time-consuming. Considerably more time is spent using the university's Banner Finance and Student Banner systems to get class lists, key grades and faculty teaching assignments, prepare and reconcile budget reports, download graduate applications, and run a variety of reports, than was the case in previous years. Purchase orders for all supplies must now be completed on-line and the procurement card statements must be reconciled monthly. Absentee reporting is also now done on-line as are all book orders. Departmental secretaries are now responsible for submitting Acknowledgement to Waive Entitlement to Remuneration forms to the Dean of Arts at the beginning of each semester and checking at the end of each semester to see what faculty have completed either extra teaching or supervisions and then sending the form back to the Dean's office for payment. In years when new faculty are being hired, a considerable amount of extra work must be done, including setting up files, acknowledging applications, writing for and acknowledging references, booking hotels, organizing meetings with Committee members and senior administrative personnel, notifying unsuccessful applicants when job is filled, and processing travel claims of candidates. When new grants are set up, signature forms must be completed for submission to the Dean, and the administrative secretary must deal with faculty members to correct any errors, run reports when requested, transfer funds from one grant to another, process any travel claims and other expenses that come out of grant money.

In recognition of the increased administrative workload and the fact that the ratio of student enrolment to administrative support was much higher in the Department of Political Science than in comparative Departments, the former Director of Budgets in the Dean's office recommended the hiring of a second administrative person for the Department in fall 2006, although one-third of the new staff member's time is shared with the Linguistics Department. While this arrangement is certainly of considerable help, the Department clearly needs a second administrative person on a full-time basis.

## Departmental Expenditures

According to the most recent (2005-06) data provided by CIAP, the Department of Political Science has a total expenditure of \$1,032,286, of which all but \$63,680 is accounted for by salaries and fringe benefits.<sup>12</sup> The total budget increased by 23.2% from 2001-02, although student enrolment increased by 41.9% during the same period. One way of judging the effectiveness of the Department's teaching budget is by comparing the ratio of course registrations per full-time faculty with other Departments in the faculty. The most recent data from CIAP indicates that the Department of Political Science has the highest ratio in the faculty. The Department with the next highest ratio is English with 318.0.

Department	Lecture Sections per Full-Time Faculty	Lecture Registrations per Full-Time Faculty	Percentage change in Registrations 2001-02 to 2005-06
Political Science	12.8	498.5	112.8
Faculty of Arts	7.9	242.5	18.9

Another way of looking at the 'value for money' of Department expenditures is by analyzing total expenditures per lecture course registration. In a useful summary prepared by the Director of CIAP, the total expenditure per lecture course registration of each Department in the Faculty of Arts is provided.<sup>13</sup> With a total salary, operating, and capital expenditure of \$345 per lecture course registration, the Department of Political Science has the lowest cost in the Faculty of Arts. This compares with Departments such as Linguistics (\$964), History (\$769), Geography (669), and German and Russian (665). The next lowest cost in the Faculty is found in the Classics Department with \$373 while the figure for the Faculty of Arts overall is \$552.

At a net expenditure of \$18,769 per degree awarded, the Department of Political Science again has the lowest cost. Comparative Department figures are Classics (\$202,954), German and Russian (\$113,082), Philosophy (\$95,030), Folklore (\$74,340), and Economics (\$64,623), while the Faculty of Arts overall has an expenditure of \$31,762 per degree awarded.

Not only does the Department of Political Science have very healthy student enrolments, but it also has the lowest cost per student in the entire Faculty, whether calculated in terms of course registrations or overall net expenditures. This low cost, however, is not entirely positive. When taken together with the notably high course registration-faculty ratio discussed earlier in this self-study report, the conclusion must be drawn that the Department has been operating with significantly fewer regular full-time faculty members than would be optimal and that these faculty members have been devoting more time to teaching with commensurately less time available for research and for research

<sup>12</sup> CIAP, p. 33.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

funding applications. This conclusion is borne out by the CIAP report which shows that, while the number of awards and dollars awarded per full-time faculty member have increased for the Department, the number of awards is only minimally above the Faculty of Arts as a whole (0.8 versus 0.6) but the dollars awarded are slightly below (\$21,611 versus \$22,467).

## **Challenges**

This self-study has revealed a number of challenges with which the Department must deal in the near future. Some, such as Honours and graduate student supervisions, will straighten themselves out as new tenure-track faculty are hired and begin to take on increased responsibility for supervisions. Similarly, the difficulties which the Department has faced in staffing its regular committees will decrease as the new faculty members currently being hired join the Department. Other challenges, however, will not automatically be met and planning must begin to resolve them. The most important ones are discussed below.

### ***Additional Full-time Faculty***

Taking into consideration the increasing enrolments, increasing number of students electing to major in Political Science, and the high course registration to faculty ratio, the Department clearly needs more full-time faculty in addition to those currently being hired. Although research productivity has increased in recent years, the high student to faculty ratio not only means that students inevitably have less meaningful interaction with regular faculty members, but that available time for faculty research is curtailed. Despite its best efforts, the Department has not been able to hire new female faculty members, other than Dr. Tremblay, who will only be able to do minimum teaching during her years as Dean of Arts. Not only must the Department make the case for additional faculty members, but it must continue and increase its efforts to attract applications from qualified females.

### ***Honours Supervisions***

While the Department has been able to meet its increased teaching obligations using a combination of part-time and contractual instructors, these individuals are not normally eligible or appropriate for the supervision of Honours papers and graduate theses. Further, most new tenure-track faculty members are eligible for a reduction in teaching load for the first two years of their appointment and it has been the policy of the Faculty of Arts to minimize as much as possible supervisory duties for such individuals in order to permit them the greatest amount of time possible to devote to research. This has meant an increased load on some faculty members whose areas of expertise are most in demand by students. Over time, as new faculty members assume an increasing role of supervisory responsibility, this problem will dissipate, but it remains a challenge in the immediate future.



## **Space**

The Department faces two major challenges with respect to space. First, the undergraduate student society has no space for informal interaction between themselves or with faculty members. This has been a recurrent concern of students for many years, and representations have been made to university officials to provide suitable space for undergraduate student socializing. The Department has made its seminar room available for students when it is not otherwise in use, but with a vibrant and enthusiastic student society, it is imperative that space be found to house society members. Second, there is an increasing need for more faculty offices, not only to house any additional faculty hired, but also to provide office space for retiring faculty members who continue academic research.

## **Conclusions**

While this self-study has revealed a number of areas that need to be addressed, it also showed that the Department is using the resources it has available extremely well. Undergraduate enrolments are increasing as are the number of students majoring and graduating in the discipline. The graduate program has stabilized at currently optimum numbers and the intake of new M.A. students is now competitive. Research productivity and external research funding are both in an upward trend, although it will be a goal of the Department to increase both in coming years.

## ***Internal Recommendations***

It is anticipated that the APR review panel will make many recommendations for the future direction of the Department; however, during the preparation of this first APR self-study, a number of observations were made which are recommended below to assist future Department Heads in preparing subsequent APR self-studies and in taking immediate steps to inaugurate communications between the Department and its alumni, improve course selection options for current students, and other matters.

- Information and statistics pertinent to the review process should be regularly maintained by the Department Head.
- All faculty members should be requested to submit annually updated curricula vitae.
- An annual report should be prepared by the Department Head listing enrolments, enrolment trends, course changes, faculty publications, faculty grants, faculty awards, and other pertinent information.
- A summary of the annual report should be sent to alumni as well as university officials.
- A database of Department alumni should be created and regularly updated.
- Efforts should be made to reduce the number of senior undergraduate courses that are scheduled in the same time slots.

- Senior level courses taught by regular faculty members should not be offered in the evenings.
- Detailed course descriptions should be listed on the Department's web site each semester well before registration begins. This is particularly important for special topics courses.
- Consideration should be given to converting special topics courses which have been offered successfully several times into regular courses with a specific course number and calendar description.
- Courses which have remained inactive for a specific number of years should be removed from the Department's calendar entry.
- Special attention should be paid to monitoring enrolment data for all introductory-level courses, particularly POSC 2500 (Introduction to Political Behaviour).
- Efforts should be made to ensure that undergraduate course titles and calendar descriptions are periodically updated to ensure that they are presented in an appealing manner for students.
- Short of reinstating a rigid prerequisite system, the Department should improve the information which students receive about courses in order to highlight the need for taking previous courses in the area as essential background preparation.
- Enrolment limits need to be considered, especially at the 4000-level where seminars limited to 15 students should be the norm.
- The Department should continue to seek space to house the undergraduate student society.
- That a case be built for requesting that the second administrative position be made full-time within the Department rather than being shared with Linguistics as at present.

## Acknowledgements

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Interim Head  
Department of Political Science