**Program Development Plan**

**Program:**  Political Science and Public Affairs (PSPA)  
Public Policy Institute (PPI)

**Department:**  Political Science and Public Affairs

**Date:**  May 23, 2012

**Strengths:** The PSPA program …
- department and faculty are impressive – well-known on campus and visible in the larger community;
- faculty research productivity is very high considering teaching load and other professional obligations;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations for the things the department could do</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Keep the culture of assessment going, but try to do more to define student learning outcomes, and to use the portfolios to more systematically assess student learning. We would encourage the department to use the existing assessment resources on campus to help it in these tasks.</td>
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# Program Development Plan

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<th>Recommendations</th>
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<th>Strategic Action</th>
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<th>Person(s) Responsible</th>
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<td>2. The PPI is encouraged to explore programs that might generate revenue, including the possibility of charging for some projects; maybe looking to students for revenue generation, perhaps by having MPA students do grant writing projects to help support the PPI.</td>
<td>Prepare short funding plan. Review similar organizations on and off campus to generate ideas, keeping in mind the Umstead Act and the mission of the PPI (it is NOT a primary funding resource).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PPI</td>
<td>June, 2013</td>
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<td>3. The department should take steps to make sure that the program meets the needs of students who enter WCU further into their university careers, and hence eliminate some of the redundancy found in the first and third classes of the 1+1+1.</td>
<td>Assess the current program and discuss with faculty ways to improve the 1+1+1 program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DH, Dept.</td>
<td>June, 2013, ongoing</td>
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<td>4. We would encourage the department to determine if it needs to address the issue of BS versus BA and, if so, to develop a plan for doing so.</td>
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<td>The department faculty have already discussed this over the past few years and wish to keep both the BS and BA. The BA is the primary contact point for student in International Studies, while the BS attracts students more interested in the data driven focus of PSPA. This item will not be addressed at this time. If a foreign language requirement is added to LS in the future, this item should be reassessed.</td>
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<td>5. The department is encouraged to expand the Engaged Activity options through adding offerings such as Mock Trial or Mock Congress. (Currently using Model UN and Internships)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The department will develop assessment for the engagement activity (part of #1). Department will use this data to support discussions on how these engagement activities might be improved. Ties to #7</td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>DH, Dept.</td>
<td>June, 2014</td>
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<td>6. Do even more student outreach by developing an alumni newsletter, and by considering other forms of outreach to what we imagine is a very satisfied group of alumni.</td>
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<td>Already have alumni newsletter.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DH, Alumni Affairs, Development Office</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Will develop an alumni outreach plan. Strategize with Development Office to increase alumni contacts.</td>
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<td>7. Add at least one additional undergraduate faculty line, ideally American politics</td>
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<td>Consider ways to connect to #5. Depends on needs of department.</td>
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<td>DH, Dean, Provost</td>
<td>Summer, 2013 Ongoing</td>
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<td>Submit in staffing request for 2013-2014.</td>
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<td>8. Put more resources into the PPI.</td>
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<td>Submit request in budget requests. Consider petitioning for applied research grants.</td>
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**Recommendations for things that could be done for the department**

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<td>10. Provide the department with one more office.</td>
<td>DH will request additional office.</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>DH, Dean, Space Management</td>
<td>Dec, 2012</td>
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<td>11. Provide the department with a common space for students and faculty to congregate.</td>
<td>Department will look for opportunities and consider creative ways this might be accomplished.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>DH, Dean, Space Management</td>
<td>Dec, 2012</td>
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