

Political Science/Science politique, Undergraduate, Glendon College

Cyclical Program Review – 2007 to 2014

Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

Reported to Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance: December 12, 2016

Program Description

The Department of Political Science at York University was established in 1964 at the time York University was founded. Glendon College offers the BA and IBA option in Political Science.

Program	Accepts 2014	Enrolment FTES 2014	Degrees Awarded 2014
Political Science (Glendon)	85	198	42 (Hons); 18 (90-credit); 1 certificate

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Rianne Mahon, Professor, Political Science, Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo

Mark B. Salter, Professor, Political Studies, University of Ottawa, Ottawa

Philip Kelly, Professor, Geography, York University

Documentation Provided to the External Reviewers

Prior to the site visit, the external reviewers are provided with the following:

- Dean's /Principal's Agenda of Concerns
- Department/Program Omnibus Statement (where applicable)
- Program Self-Study Brief, which includes program structure, curriculum and learning outcomes, program reflection, enrolment and retention data, resources, student input and quality enhancement opportunities
- Faculty CVs
- University, Faculty and Program planning documents



Site Visit: March 31 and April 1, 2016

The Political Science site visit combined the review of the Political Science Department in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and that of Glendon College. The Reviewers met with Alice Pitt, Vice Provost Academic, Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, Principal Donald Ipperciel from Glendon College and Barbara Crow, Dean and Associate Vice-President, Faculty of Graduate Studies. In addition, the reviewers met with the following LAPS representatives: David Mutimer, Chair, Dennis Pilon, Undergraduate Program Director and Elizabeth Dauphinee, Global Political Studies Coordinator from the Department of Political Science. Glendon participants in addition to the Principal included Mario Roy, Associate Principal Academic, Ian Roberge, Chair, Department of Political Science. The Graduate Program was represented by Sabah Alnasseri, Graduate Program Director, and the MA Coordinator, Terry Maley. The reviewers had several opportunities on each campus to meet with graduate and undergraduate Faculty members and students, as well as administrative staff.

Outcome:

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations. Progress on the recommendations will be included in the Follow-up Report due June 2018. The next CPR will begin in the Fall of 2022.

Strengths:

- The Glendon Political Science Department is firmly committed to the College's mission to be 'a flagship bilingual centre of higher learning for Francophones, Francophiles and multilingual students'.
- The faculty members within the department have robust research profiles and an excellent rapport with students, who feel engaged and inspired by the program and their interactions with faculty members.
- The program has a well-developed articulation of program level expectations and student learning outcomes. Course-level assessments would benefit from more clearly-articulated alignment with outcomes.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- There are gaps in courses offered, notably an introductory 1000 level course, a third-year core course offered in French and courses in the comparative field that go beyond the European Union and the United States to deal with the majority of the world that resides in the Global South.
- The Political Science program should take advantage of the

Glendon office for internships and co-operative education, which would certainly echo the successful structure of co-op and community engagement opportunities currently available.

- The Department has expertly harmonized its resources and mission; however, it is stretched and additional resources will ensure the program can maintain its current quality.
- The review report encouraged consideration of a merger of the Political Science and International Studies programs.

Reviewer Recommendations

The Reviewer Report in which the Political Science Departments in both the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and Glendon College were evaluated, resulted in five substantive recommendations. The recommendations made with respect to Glendon were:

- I. **Support for additional faculty at Glendon.** In our interpretation, Glendon Political Science cannot be expected to fulfill its mandate to teach its required courses, particularly in French, without a full-time, tenure track member to supplement the already-stretched current staff. To maintain the high quality of teaching and student engagement, a new hire is imperative and non-negotiable.*
- II. **Merger: POLS and International Studies.** Following the practice of many schools Glendon's Political Science and International Studies Programs can be integrated with little disruption or duplication. This does not obviate the need for an additional full time tenure track position, but may help with overstretched support-staff.*

Principal's Implementation Plan

The Principal of Glendon College has reviewed the reviewer's recommendations and the program's response and provides an implementation plan that advances prioritized recommendations listed in chart below. In response to the recommendation for an immediate additional academic appointment to the department, the Principal has committed to a 3-year CLA and to replacement appointments.

Recommendation Abbreviated	Agents	Dependencies	Start Date	End Date
Explore the possibility of a merger between the POLS and the ISTL Departments	program	Office of the Principal	1-Sep-16	1-Sep-18
Enhance the Experiential Education offerings in the Political Science program	program	Office of the Principal, EE Coordinator	1-Sep-16	1-Sep-18
Improve support for Anglophone students taking courses in French	program	Office of the Principal, Centre for French as a Second Language	1-Sep-16	1-Sep-18
Offer an introductory 1000 level course	program	Multidisciplinary Studies	1-Sep-16	1-Sep-17

Progress on the plan will be provided in the follow-up report due in June 2018 and should include an update on steps to increase engagement with the Department of Political Science in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies.

Alice J. Pitt
Vice-Provost Academic
York University