

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)

DEPARTMENT OF Political Science & Planning
Name of Department Chair Robert M. Schaefer
Name of Person Completing Report Robert M. Schaefer

1*	Departmental Mission/Vision Statement	http://www.westga.edu/~polisci
2*	Departmental Statement of Goals, Process to Assess These Goals, and Assessment Results	http://www.westga.edu/~polisci
3*	Departmental Statement of Curriculum Learning Outcomes, Process to Assess These Outcomes, and Assessment Results for each Degree Program	http://www.westga.edu/~polisci
4*	Statement of Departmental Condition - please indicate the specific strengths and weaknesses of your department.	
<u>STRENGTHS:</u>		
<u>Certain strengths remain:</u>		
The fundamental strength of the department is the faculty. Every member is very concerned about the education and well-being of UWG students. Faculty members are constantly advising, tutoring, & mentoring our 200+ majors. It is common knowledge that UWG's teachers genuinely care about the students' academic and future career options.		
<u>Additional strengths:</u>		
Departmental members are actively involved in many research projects. The Masters of Public Administration program increased its admission standards this year. The department continues to invite nationally known speakers, including Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Distinguished Lecture Series.		
<u>WEAKNESSES:</u>		
<u>Some of the weaknesses remain:</u>		
The political science department "seats" approximately 2400+ American Government students each year. Every tenure track faculty member teaches at least two sections of AG. Many of the classes are taught by limited term and adjunct faculty. Although these teachers, on the whole, do a good job, they are not always reliable nor do they interact with students the same way as permanent faculty.		
<u>Others have been identified:</u>		
Insufficient upper level political science classes (survey results indicate that students desire to have more offerings). Also, student surveys suggest that advisors are weak regarding core class requirements. As noted in previous annual reports, the Pafford building is well past its prime. New ceilings, floors, lighting fixtures, etc., are necessary.		
<u>OPPORTUNITIES:</u>		
<u>Certain opportunities remain:</u>		
The Planning program has great potential to benefit our students, UWG, and Georgia's diverse communities. The Department needs to focus on this important track and work to increase Planning course offerings.		
The tenure track faculty is very dedicated to the students & department. The faculty members continue to mentor students, publish articles and books, and remain active in their fields.		
<u>Other opportunities have been identified:</u>		
The MPA director has determined that many local professionals are interested in a Health Care Administration track for the Tanner Medical Center, the primary health care facility in Carroll County. Additional faculty are needed to fulfill this demand.		
<u>THREATS:</u>		
<u>Certain threats remain:</u>		
Limited operating budget for travel, supplies, etc., has not kept up with inflation and the growing department. Also, there have been no significant raises in the last five years.		
<u>Other threats have been identified:</u>		
Salary compression continues to be an ongoing issue. The national financial crisis will only exacerbate this problem. New faculty members are hired with salaries only slightly lower than assistant professors who have been at UWG for a number of years.		

DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

5	Percent of Students passing licensing, certification, or other accreditation examinations related to their chosen field	n/a
6	Proportion of graduating students going on to graduate or professional schools	50% (primarily law school)
7	Number of Nationally recognized programs.	1
8	Number of Endowed chairs and professorships	0
9	Types of Licensure <i>(please list)</i> n/a	
10	How does the department prepare students for Licensure? n/a	
11	Other notable achievements <p>The Department and Political Science Club invited a number of state and local politicians to campus. Speaker's topics included the legislative process, state budgetary issues, voting procedures, etc.</p> <p>The students also supported a food drive for the local soup kitchen.</p> <p>The third place prize Daisy Alliance Essay Contest was awarded to Nia Kulakova, a Master's student at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology.</p> <p>Anita Immele, Department assistant, was awarded the NAACP Unity Award for 2008.</p> <p>Dr. Said Sewell was awarded the "Professor of the Year" by the Latino Cultural Society.</p> <p>Dr. Stan Caress' new book, <i>Consequences of a Legislative Reform: The Aftermath of Term Limits</i> (Todd Kunioka, co-author), will be published by California State University Press later this year.</p>	

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

12	Total Published Research Papers	0
13	Total Presentations	6
14	Total Internships	6
15	Total Co-ops	0
16	Total Scholarships	4
17	Total Fellowships	0
18	Total Students engaged in Funded Research	0
19	Total Students receiving National Awards and/or National Recognition	0
20	Total Students inducted into Academic Honor Societies	14
21	Total Student Programs (debate, cheerleaders, athletic teams) receiving National Recognition	1
22	Other notable achievements by Students Scholarship winners this year: George Bagby Scholarship – Emily Davison; Jud Whatley Scholarship – Andrew Nuckolls Dudley Crosson Scholarship – Kelly Speir; Lee Wash undergraduate award – Doneen Mills Lee Wash graduate award – Dana Ethredge	

FACULTY/STAFF PRODUCTIVITY

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

TEACHING

23	Total New Course Developments	2
24	Total Faculty Teaching Honors Courses	2
25	Total Faculty traveling Abroad for Teaching Purposes	1
26	Percent of Faculty involved in Academic Advisement	100% of tenure or tenure-track
RESEARCH/PRODUCTIVITY		
27	Total Books and Monographs	1
28	Total Book Chapters	0
29	Total Peer Review Articles	8
30	Total Other Shorter Works	4
31	Total Paper Presentations	13
32	Total Other Presentation	5
33	Total In-House Publications	0
34	Total Juried Exhibits/Performances	0
35	Total Other Exhibits/Performances	0
36	Total Positions Held in Journal Editing/Review	2
37	Total Faculty involved in Notable Continuing Education Efforts	0
38	Total Faculty traveling Abroad for Research Purposes	2
PUBLIC SERVICE		
39	Total Participants in Honors Organizations	1
40	Total Offices held in Professional Organizations	4
41	Total Advisors of Student Organizations	10
42	Total Participants in Cooperative Consulting Efforts	1
43	Total System-wide/UWG Committee Activities	2
44	Total Participants in Public Service Activities	6
45	Other notable achievements by Faculty	
	Dr. Louis Howe received a Fulbright Fellowship (2008-2009).	
GRANTS/AWARDS		
46	Total Proposals Submitted	7
47	Total Proposals Funded	5
48	Total Amount Awarded	\$24,000
49	Total Grants Generated by Department	5
50	Total Faculty receiving Grants	4
51	Total Fellowships Awarded	1
IMPORTANT: Please do not abbreviate. Please spell out all organization/program names.		
52	New Degree Programs or Deletions <i>(name of program and semester added/deleted)</i>	
	n/a	
53	New Departments or Other New Units; Also any Restructuring of These	
	n/a	
54	Accreditation or Similar Distinction or Renewal <i>(name of accrediting body and date department/program received accreditation)</i>	
	n/a	
55	Additional Comments Concerning Your Department	

Our graduate and undergraduate students, once again, participated in the American Society for Public Administration annual state conference (March 2009, Milledgeville). Five students presented papers.

Sam Miller won third place in Research Day (Social Sciences Division). His presentation was entitled "The Correlation Between State Gun Laws and State Homicide Rates."

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Give an example of how your department used the assessment of goals and outcomes to change/improve a process. (Required)

The department increased its admission standards for all MPA students. The minimum GPA and GRE scores are higher to ensure that those admitted are capable of completing coursework and doing quality work on the Exit Papers.

UPON COMPLETION

Please email completed report to:

Institutional Research and Planning

Tara Pearson

tpearson@westga.edu

678-839-6449