I. Narrative Description of the Status of the Discipline(s) from a National Perspective (including emerging issues and trends)

We have faculty from three disciplines in our department (political science, public administration, and geography). All three disciplines are united around common questions related to power and politics, and we provide our undergraduate and graduate students with a wide-range of tools to answer questions about the world we live in.

Since the majority of faculty reside in political science, this section will provide a few highlights of this discipline from a national perspective. The American Political Science Association (APSA) defines political science as “the study of governments, public policies and political processes, systems, and political behaviors.” Subsequently, APSA lists the following political science subfields: political theory, political philosophy, political ideology, political economy, policy studies and analysis, comparative politics, international relations, and several other related fields.

The APSA is currently focused on ways to help improve public perceptions of political science’s value. The organization recently created a task force with many of the discipline’s leaders including John Sides, Professor at George Washington University and co-founder of the political blog, The Monkey Cage. The report provides a number of recommendations for how the discipline can “communicate its insights to a wide range of diverse constituencies using a dynamic collection of communicative strategies and technologies.”

II. Program

a. Mission statement

We updated our mission statement at a May 2013 retreat. Our new mission statement is “The Department of Political Science is committed to the rigorous study of politics, power, and place, expanding opportunities for learning and service, career preparation and civic participation locally and globally.”

b. Strategies and tactics in the College’s strategic plan your department or program would place as highest priorities

The department still considers Strategic Plan strategies 1 through 5 the most relevant for academic units. Of these, we continue to focus on strategies 1 and 2.
Strategy 1: Enhance the undergraduate academic core.

We remain focused on enhancing our academic core and spend considerable time developing “a highly personalized education based on a liberal arts and sciences core and enhanced by opportunities for experiential learning” (SP Goal 1). Though much of this annual report is devoted to ways the department enhances the undergraduate core, a few specific tactics are highlighted below.

- Strong support for First Year Experience with 4 First Year Seminars in 2014-2015.
- Continued commitment to the Honors College with 1 Honors class and 5 students graduating from the Honors College in 2014-2015.
- The William V. Moore Student Research Conference held each spring provides opportunities for undergraduates and high school students to present original research.
- An emphasis on faculty/student research with 12 Bachelor’s Essays and 11 Independent Study projects.
- High profile events to enhance the intellectual climate on campus including talks by nationally known figures including U.S. Senator Rand Paul and Susan Herman, president of the American Civil Liberties Union.
- A highly engaged faculty willing to share their expertise on politics, public policy, and public administration both on and off campus.
- Study abroad opportunities for students.
- Focus on assessment of student learning outcomes and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Also, we provide all roster faculty for the Master of Public Administration program and most of the roster faculty for the policy component of the Master of Environmental Studies program. These are among the largest and most successful programs on campus, programs that take full advantage of the unique “history, culture, and location in Charleston and contribute to the wellbeing of the region” (SP Goal 2). Tactics designed to pursue strategy 2 include:

- Expand individual research opportunities for MES and MPA students.
- Expand student led applied research projects that benefit area nonprofits and government organizations.
- Continue to strengthen partnerships between the department and the Joseph P. Riley Center for Livable Communities.
- Expand and solidify the joint MES/MPA degree.
- Continue to maintain accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for the MPA program. The MPA program’s annual accreditation process took place in
2013-2014. Re-accreditation was led by MPA Director, Dr. Jo Ann Ewalt, and all the department’s core MPA faculty were involved in the process.

c. Program goals and their relationship to the College’s strategic plan

The Department of Political Science continues to have the program goals listed below. However, these goals will be reexamined in 2015-2016 in light of our new mission statement and program learning outcomes.

Goal 1: Acquire knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations.

Goal 2: Acquire knowledge of major political philosophies, western and nonwestern, and their origins.

Goal 3: Acquire knowledge of the bases of human behavior in diverse political settings and roles.

Goal 4: Read for comprehension, critically analyze text, and write effectively in a manner appropriate to the task.

Goal 5: Comprehend the views of others and articulate and defend one’s own position.

Goal 6: Develop the skill of applying theories and concepts to new situations.

Goal 7: Develop an appreciation for the scope and methodologies used to study politics.

Goal 8: Conduct research and analysis, including qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Goal 9: Develop the expectation of participation in public life and actively engage with the Charleston and Lowcountry communities.

Goal 10: Develop the communication, cooperation, and negotiation skills necessary to work with others.

Goal 11: Develop an appreciation for the interplay of ideas in the public forum and a critical understanding of political communication and the mass media.

Goal 12: Work comfortably in a diverse world and develop the skills needed to address problems that cross disciplinary and national boundaries.
Goal 13: Receive recognition and support for academic potential and achievement.

Goal 14: Students in interdisciplinary and graduate programs should continue to benefit from faculty.

d. Student Learning Outcomes of the program

Knowledge: Students are able to identify and explain theories, institutions and processes related to power, place and politics

Skills: Students are able to critically analyze texts, communicate effectively, critically assess the views of others, defend their own views and apply appropriate methodological and theoretical approaches

Engagement: Students demonstrate a habit of engagement with the world and an understanding of the value of civic participation, locally, nationally and globally

III. Narrative Summary and Analysis of Departmental or Program Accomplishments

a. Please discuss any of the following that apply to your department or program over the last year, making reference to any data provided at http://ir.cofc.edu/aadeptdata/ or data that you supply in the Supporting Data section as appropriate. What are your strengths, and where would you like to develop?

The Department of Political Science continues to provide a high quality and highly personalized education to its students. One of the many unique features of the Department is the adoption of an annual theme. In 2014-2015, we adopted the theme of “Civil Liberties and the ‘War on Terror.’” As mentioned above, our featured speaker was Susan Herman, president of the American Civil Liberties Union and Centennial Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School. Her presentation highlighted her book Taking Liberties: The War on Terror and the Erosion of American Democracy.

The department also co-sponsored a three part series on the U.S. Constitution. In February, the Political Science and Philosophy Departments collaborated to present “Polarization and the U.S. Constitution.” The panel featured political science professors, Jordan Ragusa and Claire Wofford, and philosophy professors, Larry Krasnoff and Richard Nunan. In March, Dr. Brian McGee, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave the second lecture
“Religious Belief, Fighting Words, and the First Amendment: U.S. Constitution Principles and the Charlie Hebdo Massacre.” In April, the Political Science collaborated with the Pre-Law Advising Program and the Department of Religious Studies to host Dr. Finbarr Curtis from Georgia Southern University. Dr. Curtis spoke about how the Court imagines the relationship among human bodies, property, and personhood in the wake of the 2014 Burwell v. Hobby Lobby decision.

In January, the Political Science Department hosted a Domestic Violence Town Hall at the college. Professors Chris Day and Claire Wofford worked in collaboration with ABC News 4 (WCIV-TV) and the Post and Courier to facilitate a discussion between experts in the field of domestic violence and the local community.

In March, Professor Hollis France arranged for Dr. George Mentore of the University of Virginia to present on the tyranny and creative force of cultural memory and Amerindian healing. His lecture was titled “Life Lived as Poetry: An Amerindian Way of Dealing with the Contingencies of Pain and Humiliation.”

The fifth annual William V. Moore Student Research Conference took place on Friday, April 10 in the College of Charleston’s Stern Student Center. We were very pleased that 42 students presented research on a variety of political science and public policy topics. Sam Johnson, special assistant to the mayor of Columbia, S.C., delivered the keynote address.

Curricular offerings unusual for your discipline

Following a major overhaul of our curriculum in 2010-2011, we had another relatively quiet year of curricular change. Our curriculum attempts to balance required courses with a range of options for students to customize their learning. Some of our unique offerings include classes on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Sustainability, and Security and Sustainability. We are also fortunate to have several practitioners teaching in our program. For example, former Central Intelligence Agency employee Dr. Mary Desjeans teaches classes on Terrorism and U.S. National Security for the department. Two local attorneys, David Aylor and Rhett Dunaway teach the POLI 203 (Criminal Justice) class for the department. Likewise, Tim Keane, the City of Charleston’s Director of Planning, Preservation, and Sustainability has taught several classes for our department. We remain focused on assessment and continue to improve our department’s assessment procedures. In addition, all students are required to take a Capstone class, giving them an opportunity to integrate material from other courses and complete an original research project. It is also important to note that our concentration in Politics, Philosophy, and the Law continues to grow with over 79 declared students.
Instructional contributions to other units, programs, and initiatives, including the Honors and First Year Experience programs, undergraduate and graduate programs outside your department, the REACH program, etc.

Contributions to First Year Experience

Fall 2014

FYS 131
The US in a Globalizing World
Guoli Liu

FYSE 131
Globalization, Governance, and Un-Americanizing U.S. Cities in the 21st Century
Kevin Keenan

Spring 2015

FYSE 131
Watching the Watchers
Mark Long

FYSE 131
The Nuclear Option: The Politics of Nuclear Energy in the U.S.

Contributions to the Honors Program

HONS 166 Honors World Politics (John Creed, Spring 2015)

Contributions to the REACH Program

Faculty participating in the REACH Program included Marguerite Archie-Hudson and Hollis France

Distance education or hybrid course offerings

Gibbs Knotts taught POLI 210 (Public Administration) online in the summer of 2014 and 2015.

LaTasha Chaffin taught POLI 101 (American Government) online in summer 2015.

Departmental or program contributions to interdisciplinarity, internationalization/globalization, personalized education and high impact student experiences (such as research and creative activities, civic
engagement, study away, internships, peer education and service learning) during review year.

Interdisciplinarity

The department embodies interdisciplinary, with three geography PhDs in rank, and a geography minor. As mentioned above, the department also contributes to a number of interdisciplinary programs across the College. We provide the entire core faculty for the Master of Public Administration program and make substantial contributions to the Master of Environmental Studies program. In addition, the department makes important contributions to the Latin America and Caribbean Studies, International Studies, African Studies, Asian Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, among others.

Internationalization/Globalization

The department is firmly committed to providing an international perspective to students and the larger College community. The primary area of expertise for five of our tenure line faculty is international or comparative politics. We also have geographers in our department who study the process of globalization. As mentioned above, we are strong supporters of the College’s study abroad efforts and we continue to play a major part in the successful Trujillo program in Spain. Under the leadership of Mark Long, the program has been strengthened and a fall schedule has been created through 2016.

Personalized Education and High Impact Student Experiences

Personalized education and high impact student experiences are hallmarks of the Department of Political Science. In 2014-2015, our faculty taught 9 “special topics” courses, supervised 11 independent study projects and 12 Bachelor’s Essays. Our faculty also engaged students outside the classroom. For example, Dr. Hollis France took her Maymester Capstone students to John’s Island to learn more about migrant workers and to Meggett to visit Swimming Rockfish Farm. Dr. Kevin Keenan once again took his Urbanization and Urban Geography class to Daniel Island, Park Circle, Noisette, and the I’On Village. Dr. Brian Fisher taught a number of innovative classes connecting students with sustainability issues on campus and across the Lowcountry.

In addition, 18 students completed internships for academic credit in a wide array of government and nonprofit agencies and organizations, including the ACLU of South Carolina, the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, College of Charleston Office of Institutional Diversity, College of Charleston Office of Sustainability, Freehouse Brewery, Habitat for Humanity, Mayor’s Office – Department of Aging, Mayor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families, People Against Rape,
Public Defender’s Office, Senator Tim Scott, Solicitor’s Office Juvenile Arbitration Program.

We also offered two “Model” courses for our students in 2014-2015. Dr. Chris Day taught POLI 266 (Model African Union) that provided students a remarkable opportunity for engaged, high impact learning. Working in delegations of up to six, students honed research skills and developed a deep knowledge of specific African countries. Dr. Max Kovalov worked student leaders to organize a College of Charleston Model United Nations for students on campus and also traveled with the student leaders for a competition in Atlanta.

To further encourage academic excellence and student research, the Department hosted the fourth annual William V. Moore Student Research Conference. Conference participation was the highest ever with 42 students, consisting of undergraduates in political science and international studies as well as a number of outstanding high school seniors from Academic Magnet High School. In addition, approximately 100 students, faculty, alumni, and parents attended the conference luncheon with a keynote address provided by Sam Johnson, special assistant to the mayor of Columbia, S.C. Conference sessions were filled with supportive parents, interested students, faculty and friends.

Summary of student and/or graduate accomplishments

Our graduates continue to attend graduate school, work in a variety of professions, and win prestigious scholarships and fellowships. We are particularly proud that the College’s highest academic honor, the Bishop Robert Smith Award, has gone to a political science major 13 of the past 19 years. In 2014-2015, Isabel Williams was awarded this honor. In addition, 3 political science majors graduated with Department Honors, 47 students joined the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society, and 98 students qualified for the Honor Roll in the fall and 100 students in the spring. We also continue to advise students interested in attending graduate school.

A selected list of accomplishments for our 2014-2015 graduates appears below:

Brandon Chapman
Political Science and African American Studies Double-Major Brandon Chapman will attend the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) at Duke University. This intensive five-week program is named in honor of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner and former American Political Science Association (APSA) President, Ralph J. Bunche. The competitive program introduces doctoral study to undergraduate students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups.
Emily Davidson
Emily Davidson will graduate from the College of Charleston with a degree in political science. After graduation she will attend the University of Virginia Law School in pursuit of a Juris Doctorate degree. During her time at the College, Emily was an active member of the Student Government Association (SGA), the Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity, and volunteered annually at Susan G. Coleman's Lowcountry Race for the Cure. She studied abroad in Italy in the summer of 2013 and traveled to Washington D.C. in the spring of 2014 for the Model African Union. She was a Global Scholar, Dengate Scholar, and was named one of Political Science's "Outstanding Students" for 2015.

Andrew Fink
Andrew Fink secured a prestigious summer internship at the Heritage Foundation, one of the most influential conservative think tanks in the country. He will be working in the Margaret Thatcher Center on defense policy, national security, and foreign policy.

Trevor Jones
Trevor Jones has secured a summer internship with Congressman Jim Clyburn. He is able to participate in this learning opportunity as a result of receiving the W.N. Looper Award. The award is sponsored by 1983 alumna Ann Looper Pryor and provides $3000 to help cover the costs associated with interning in Washington, D.C.

Abigail Tennenbaum
Abby’s curricular and co-curricular work during her tenure at COFC truly captures the spirit of the HSS Scholars Award: She has seamlessly connected her work inside and outside the classroom to issues of human rights and food justice. Beginning with work in the Office of Sustainability over multiple semesters she conducted a feasibility study of composting in dining halls on campus which resulted in the campus dining halls now composting their food waste. This work culminated with her compelling bachelor’s essay “Farm Workers: The Hidden Piece in the Food Puzzle” in which she tackles the paradox of the privilege given to issues of animal rights, nutrition, and GMOs in the food movement discourse, while labor or human rights issues are often marginalized. Starting in August, in keeping with her desire to devote her future career path to promoting sustainable food systems, she will join Green Corps, a training program in grassroots environmental organizing. Abby will formally receive the HSS Scholars award on Friday, May 15th at 1:30pm at the Francis Marion Hotel (Gold Ballroom).
Isabel Williams
Isabel Williams will graduate from the College of Charleston with a Political Science major and Spanish minor. She was recently awarded the Bishop Robert Smith Award, the highest student honor bestowed on a College of Charleston student. She has worked as a summer fellow with Campus Pride in Charlotte, NC, where she helped organize an anti-bullying campaign. At the College of Charleston she served as the President of the Gay-Straight Alliance and has worked as SafeZone’s Student Coordinator. Perhaps most notably, she has all but single-handedly led the college-wide effort to have more than eighty gender-neutral restrooms designated on campus as one of many initiatives to help the College’s transgender community. Her bachelor’s essay examines the challenges around organizing domestic workers in order to promote awareness and social justice for their work.

b. Please provide a brief narrative summary of the curricular assessment activities undertaken by your unit this year, along with both actions taken in earlier years that have led to improvement and plans for improvement.

Dr. John Creed spearheaded our department’s curriculum and assessment activities. At the end of the 2012-2013 cycle we adopted a new program mission statement and at the end of the 2013-2014 cycle we have adopted new program learning outcomes, moving from 8 program learning outcomes to 3 (see assessment report). We are now working to complete a new curriculum map to align with our new learning outcomes. In addition we are reworking the rubric we use to assess the capstone papers, in order to reflect the new program learning outcomes. We have also decided to switch from an academic year cycle of assessment to a calendar year cycle. This will give us the spring semester to discuss the findings from the previous calendar year. The academic year cycle gave little time for discussion of findings at the end of the year. In order for assessment to lead to productive and evidence based changes we need a system that provides ample time during the academic year to discuss findings and to consider next steps.

c. Please discuss the diversity among your faculty, including efforts made in recruitment (if applicable) to increase the presence of under-represented groups.

The department remains fully committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty and to increasing the presence of under-represented groups. Females make up about half of the department, and 3 of our 21 roster faculty (14%) are African American.
d. Please provide a summary analysis of research and professional development productivity in your department or program, referring to the Supporting Data section as appropriate. What are your strengths and challenges?

Faculty in the Department of Political Science publish in a wide-range of scholarly outlets. In addition, faculty demonstrate the ability to write for a wider-audience by publishing policy reports and op-ed pieces. A list of recent publications appears below.

Books


Peer Reviewed Journal Articles


Book Chapters, Translations, Invited Papers, Other Publications and Recognition


**External Grants**


Nowlin, M. (Principal), “Coastal Climate Support: Extending Climate Adaptation Lessons to other Communities.” Sponsored by the SC Sea Grant, Federal governmental agency, awarded $25,000.00.


Stewart, K. (Principal), "Tri-County Housing Scorecard," Non-profit/Foundation, awarded $5,500.00. (September 2013 - June 2014).
Stewart, K. (Principal), "Internship for Ben Perrone," Non-profit/Foundation, awarded $6,000.00. (January 2014 - May 2014).


e. Please provide a summary of departmental or program service and outreach contributions to the school, College, community (of a professional nature), or profession. What are your strengths and challenges?

As you can see below, our department continues to be heavily engaged in service and outreach activities. Our strengths include College-wide service, frequent commentary with media outlets, and a wide range of public lectures on a range of political and public policy topics.

LaTasha Chaffin is a core member of our Master of Public Administration faculty. She is also a faculty affiliate for the African American Studies Program and the Urban Studies Program. She also served on the Kline Award Committee for the Southeastern Conference of Public Administrators.

John Creed continues to provide considerable service to the department. He also worked closely with the College’s Honors College and gave talks to many groups on the Middle East and American Foreign Policy.

Claire Curtis was on sabbatical in 2014-2015.

Chris Day is an integral part of the College’s African Studies program and like many of our faculty, teaches courses for the International Studies program. He also works closely with international groups including the Enough Project. In addition, he has spoken with the media about comparative and international politics.
Jo Ann Ewalt directs the College’s Master of Public Administration program and also served on the Committee on Graduate Education, and the Graduate Council. She is significantly engaged in her discipline, having recently been elected as the president of the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration. She is also a member of the NASPAA Executive Council and serves as a member of the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation, the national accrediting body for Master's programs in public policy and administration. She serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Public Affairs Education. Dr. Ewalt is also engaged in significant community outreach to the Lowcountry. She has led a year-long strategic planning process for the Greater Charleston YWCA, and students in her graduate research methods class assisted the Chief of Police and the city of Charleston with an analysis citizen concerns for the city's Stand Up Charleston initiative.

Andy Felts served on the Department’s Intellectual Life Committee.

Brian Fisher is the College’s Director of Sustainability where he coordinates a number of important initiatives for the College related to energy, waste and water management, outreach and awareness, research and planning, and food and agriculture.

Hollis France served as a Faculty Senate and is the Director of the College’s Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (GSEC). She also chaired the Faculty and Staff Labor Day Committee and worked on the campus's Climate Study. In the community, Dr. France shared her expertise by making presentations at the Lowcountry Senior Center and Ashley Hall.

Phil Jos is a core MPA faculty member and also co-directed the William V. Moore Student Research Conference. He was also an external member of the Department of Communication Tenure and Promotion Panel. He was also an active member of Faculty Senate.

Kevin Keenan serves in a number of administrative roles for the College. He continues to be the Director of the Urban and Regional Planning Certificate program and serves as Director of Urban Studies. He is also a member of the College Assessment Committee.

Gibbs Knotts serves as Department Chair and also served as an external member on the History Department’s Tenure and Promotion Committee. He is a frequent commentator on political issues and has appeared in local, state, national, and international media outlets. He also speaks to a range of community groups and serves as a senior project advisor to an Academic Magnet student. He was a book reviewer for CQ Press.
Guoli Liu remains an active member of the College community, serving on the Council on Undergraduate Research. He also serves as a board member of the Chinese Association in Greater Charleston and on the editorial board for the *Journal of Chinese Political Science*.

Mark Long held a number of leadership roles for the Department and the College. He chaired the Geography Committee and also served as the Director of the Trujillo Program. In addition, Dr. Long was the co-director of the William V. Moore Student Research Conference.

Matt Nowlin is a core MPA faculty and serves on the admissions committees for both the MPA and MES programs. He was also a peer reviewer for academic journals.

Jordan Ragusa serves on the College’s Student Affairs and Athletics Committee and a variety of department level committees. He was also a section chair for the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. His blog, “Rule 22,” was picked up by the *Christian Science Monitor*. He also talks frequently with the media about current political issues and serves as a senior project advisor to an Academic Magnet student.

Alex Sanders contributes to the intellectual life of the College and larger community in many ways. He is a sought after public speaker, addressing a range of audiences. He also serves on the editorial board of the *South Carolina Trial Objections Manual* and a number of other community boards and foundations.

Kendra Stewart serves as Director of the Joseph P. Riley Center for Livable Communities. She also chaired the 2014 American Society for Public Administration Annual Conference. She serves on the editorial board for *State and Local Government Review, Journal of Public Affairs Education*, and *Public Administration Quarterly*. Like many of our faculty, Dr. Stewart is a frequent contributor to local and national media outlets providing expert commentary on a range of political and public policy issues.

Annette Watson was on sabbatical in 2014-2015.

Claire Wofford shares her expertise in American politics and the judicial system with media outlets and is on the Editorial Board for the *Law and Courts Newsletter*. She is also a mentor for a senior project at Academic Magnet High School.