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

We have faculty from three primary 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 for a host of meaningful careers and 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 recently completed a strategic planning process. According to the plan, the APSA “promotes scholarly understanding of political ideas, norms, behaviors, and institutions to inform public choices about government, governance, and public policy.” This outwardly focused vision is consistent with recent efforts to help improve public perceptions of political science’s value. Many members of our department are supportive of these efforts and committed to sharing research and insights with both scholarly and general audiences.

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.

- Continued commitment to the Honors College with 1 Honors class and 35 students participating in the Honors program in 2019-2020.
- The William V. Moore Student Research Conference held each spring was canceled due to COVID-19.
- A continued focus on helping our students develop the skills necessary for successful careers. We connect our students to alumni through our mentoring program and the Career Café Series. In addition, we collect and disseminate information on available internships throughout the year in a variety of fields, including but not limited to political campaigns, environmental issues, public policy, research, communications, and law; students can earn credit for these internships by enrolling in POLI 402. The administrative coordinator of our department serves on the Internship Advisory Board and works closely with the Career Center to strengthen internship participation.
- Primary sponsor or co-sponsor of high-profile events to enhance the intellectual climate on campus including talks by nationally known figures including: Dr. Mauro J. Caraccioli (assistant professor of political science at Virginia Tech), Marianne Birthler (German activist and politician), University of South Carolina School of Law admissions, Peter Finn (co-author of The Zhivago Affair), Dell Upton (architectural historian), Dr. Jennifer Nagda (Director of The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights), David Michael Crane (Chief Prosecutor of International War Crimes Tribunal), Mariah Parker (Athens-Clarke County Commissioner), and Dr. Julia McReynolds Perez (scholar of Latin American reproductive justice).
- Primary sponsor or co-sponsor of student social and educational events on and off campus, including: Kickin’ Chicken Political Science Meet and Greet, two Career Cafes featuring alumni panelists, Political Science Convocation, How to Get Into Law School, Halsey Institute screening of “America Street,” and Is Law School Right For Me.
- A highly engaged faculty willing to share their expertise on politics, public policy, public administration, and geography both on and off campus: Dr. Matt Nowlin and Dr. Annette Watson hosted monthly Environmental Policy Research Group meetings, Dr. Jordan Ragusa gave a sabbatical
lecture, Dr. Chris Day and Dr. Maren Trochmann hosted a graduate school advising session, Dr. Gibbs Knotts gave his sabbatical lecture, Dr. Max Kovalov hosted the Model United Nations, Dr. Chris Day gave his sabbatical talk, Drs. Karyn Amira, Jordan Ragusa, and Claire Wofford hosted a discussion on impeachment, Dr. Chris Day took a group of students to Washington, DC for the Model AU conference, Dr. Matt Nowlin was a panelist in the Center for Public Choice and Market Process’ presentation on climate change, Dr. Mark Long joined the European Studies Program to present on Brexit, Dr. John Creed presented on Syria in the student chapter of Doctors Without Borders, and Dr. Chris Day shared information about working with MSF to the student chapter of Doctors Without Borders.

- Most study abroad opportunities for students in the spring were canceled due to COVID-19. One student traveled to Bodrum, Turkey to attend the Property and Freedom Society’s annual conference, sponsored by an HSS Travel Award.

- A focus on assessment of student learning outcomes and commitment to continuous improvement.

We provide all roster faculty for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program and most of the roster faculty for the policy component of the Master of Science in Environmental Studies (MES) program. We hired Dr. Maren Trochmann as an additional MPA faculty member. In addition, the directors of both programs, Dr. Judith Millesen (MPA) and Dr. Annette Watson (MES), are tenured faculty members of the political science department. These are among the largest and most successful graduate 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. Riley Center Director, Dr. Kendra Stewart, is a tenured faculty member in the political science department.
- 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 most recent successful accreditation took place in 2013-2014 and we are working toward our next accreditation in 2020-2021.
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.

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 provides a high quality and highly personalized education to its students. Two of our faculty, Dr. Moore and Dr. Creed, recently made the top 10 list of favorite professors at CofC. Our spring Convocation of Majors speaker was Dr. Jacob Levy, he spoke on Free Speech. This event took place on February 6th and was very well attended by our students as well as other members of the campus community.

The department maintains its commitment to helping students prepare for life after college. We continued our Alumni Mentorship Program, a program that matches departmental alumni with current students. During the 2019-2020 academic year, we had 33 students participating in the program. We have received great reviews on this program; students have been able to get career guidance, learn job-related skills, career search assistance, resume help, and advice on salary negotiations.

In addition, we organized three Career Café events to help students learn more about career opportunities. We held our first Career Café on September 26, 2019, featuring Greta Creech, Jessica Davis Ganao, and Alyssa Leibman, and we held another Career Café event on October 24 featuring Ron Hanna III, Trevor Jones, Marla Robertson, and Ali Titus.
The annual William V. Moore Student Research Conference was canceled due to COVID-19.

We continue to prioritize fundraising and have focused particularly on the Political Science Fund, the William V. Moore Endowed Scholarship in Political Science and the William V. Moore Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund provides resources to put on our annual student research conference, and are working to fully endow this fund. We were also very excited to create a new fund, The John Creed Award. This award will be given to help juniors or seniors support internships, study abroad, conference presentations and workshops.

Curricular offerings unusual for your discipline

Our curriculum attempts to balance required courses with a range of options for students to customize their learning. Some of our unique course offerings in Fall 2019 included Building Peace Toward Sustainability, Model United Nations, and Foundations of the First Amendment. Our Fall 2019 capstones included Food, Public Spheres and Democratic Deliberation, and Guantanamo. Unique courses offered in Spring 2020 included International Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism, Model African Union, Model Organization of American States, and Spring 2020 capstones included Nonprofits and Public Policy, The Politics of Identity, Empires, and Reproduction and the Law. In 2016-2017, we approved an optional “Public Policy” concentration for our majors. This concentration will provide our students specific policy related skills. In 2019-2020, 27 students were participating in this optional concentration.

We are fortunate to have several practitioners teaching in our program. For example, former Central Intelligence Agency employee Dr. Mary Desjeans taught classes on Terrorism and U.S. National Security for the department and retired at the end of the academic year. Local attorney Rhett Dunaway teaches POLI 203 (Criminal Justice), and Judge Alex Sanders teaches courses POLI 295 (Law and Society). Our course offerings in GIS have also expanded due to the hiring of Dr. Doug Rivet.

We also remain focused on assessment and continue to improve our department’s assessment procedures. 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 136 declared students, 129 of which are political science majors.
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 2019
FYSE 131 – The US and Globalization, Guoli Liu

Contributions to the Honors Program
Spring 2020
HONS 165 – Honors American Government, Kendall Deas

Distance education or hybrid course offerings
POLI 101 - American Government, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Jordan Ragusa
POLI 102 – Contemporary Political Issues, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Matthew Nowlin
POLI 104 - World Regional Geography, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Annette Watson
POLI 210 - Intro to Public Administration, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Matthew Nowlin
POLI 211- Intro to Public Policy, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Matthew Nowlin
POLI 293 - Ethics and Politics, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Briana McGinnis
POLI 294 - Introduction to Sustainability, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Brian Fisher
POLI 401- Reading and Independent Study in Political Science, Dr. Jordan Ragusa
POLI 401- Reading and Independent Study in Political Science, Summer 2019, Dr. Gibbs Knotts
POLI 401- Reading and Independent Study in Political Science, Summer 2019, Dr. Jordan Ragusa
POLI 402 - Field Internship, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Jordan Ragusa
GEOG 101- World Regional Geography, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Annette Watson
GEOG 219- Reading the Lowcountry Landscape, online exclusively in Summer 2019, Dr. Annette Watson

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 interdisciplinarity, 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 core faculty for the MPA program and make substantial contributions to the MES program. In addition, the department makes important contributions to the Latin America and Caribbean Studies, International Studies, African Studies, Asian Studies, European Studies, Public Health, Environmental Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, among others.

Internationalization/Globalization

The department is committed to providing an international perspective to students and the larger College community. The primary area of expertise for four 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. Our faculty planned to lead study abroad trips to Morocco/Spain and England/Scotland in summer 2020, but both were canceled due to COVID-19. Our faculty have also coordinated the College’s fall semester program in Trujillo, Spain since 2011.

Personalized Education and High Impact Student Experiences

Personalized education and high impact student experiences are hallmarks of the Department of Political Science. In 2019-2020, our faculty supervised 11 independent study projects and 14 Bachelor’s Essays.

In addition, 38 students completed internships for academic credit from Summer 2019-Spring 2020 in a wide array of government and nonprofit agencies and organizations, including the Office of James E. Clyburn, Lowcountry Orphan Relief, Tecklenburg for Mayor campaign, South Carolina Port Authority, Congressman Joe Cunningham’s office, United States Department of Defense, and Charleston County Public Defender’s Office.

We also offered three “Model” courses for our students in 2019-2020. Dr. Chris Day taught POLI 266 (Model African Union) that provided students an 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. The students also traveled with Dr. Day to Howard University in Washington, D.C., to compete in a Model African Union competition.
In addition, Dr. Max Kovalov taught POLI 261 (Model United Nations), in which students traveled with Dr. Kovalov to Atlanta, GA for the Southern Regional Model UN in November. Dr. Kovalov also hosted 154 students in an on-campus simulation of the UN (November 1-2, 2019), with students representing countries from around the world and working on committees such as the Development Committee, Human Rights Council, Refugee Committee, Security Committee. Dr. Doug Friedman continued to teach POLI 266 (Model Organization of American States).

To coordinate engaged learning opportunities for students, Professors Jordan Ragusa and Gibbs Knotts founded the American Politics Research Team (APRT) in 2015. Modeled after the College’s Women’s Health Research, Team, the APRT is a faculty-student research team with a mission to “conduct empirical research on important topics in American Politics, contribute to public discourse on political issues, and to help students develop their research skills.

Similarly, Professors Matt Nowlin and Annette Watson created the Environmental Policy Research Group (EPRG) in 2017. The mission of the EPRG is “to conduct empirical research on environmental issues around the globe, promote interdisciplinary research collaboration, help students develop their research skills, and cultivate skills for conducting participatory research and public outreach.” Throughout the academic year, the group has hosted monthly meetings open to both graduates and undergraduates. Dr. Watson and graduate student Ina Ivanova co-authored a paper entitled “Systematic Review of Documented Indigenous Knowledge of Freshwater Biodiversity in the Circumpolar Arctic” in the journal *Freshwater Biology*.

As noted above, the Department had planned to host the tenth annual William V. Moore Student Research Conference, but this was canceled due to COVID-19.

**Changes in departmental or program enrollments**

The Department of Political Science continues to enjoy healthy student enrollments. In Spring 2020, the department had 393 majors and 3 EDPS majors. The PPLW concentration has 136 students in Spring 2020 and the PLCY concentration has 27. Lastly, the department is also home to the Political Science minor with 56 students and the Geography minor with 5 students.

The department continues to work to recruit students for the Geography program. We created a new course and had a number of discussions about the geography curriculum. In 2018-2019, we will work to make the program more visible and emphasize skill development for geography minors by offering courses such as Geographic Information Systems more consistently.

**Departmental workload productivity**
The teaching load for faculty in the department is three courses per semester. Scholarship and service obligations, as described throughout this report, also make up a substantial part of the workload of faculty in the department. Faculty gave numerous lectures and presentations on and off campus, as noted earlier in this report. Dr. Claire Wofford took over as the new Pre-Law Program Director. Dr. Mark Long is involved with the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. Dr. Chris Day, became the Program Director for African Studies. The Department ran a book club discussion on *Racing to Justice* in cooperation with the Women and Gender Studies Department, and was also heavily involved in the Bully Pulpit Series.

In the most recent Delaware Report based on 2015-2016 data, the Department’s Expenditure per Student Credit Hour was $272. This was slightly above the College ratio of $242 and the HSS ratio of $219. The Expenditure per Full Time Equivalent for the Department was $7,760, also slightly above the College ratio of $7,127 and the HSS ratio of $6,493.

**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. Olivia Rothstein, class of 2020, was awarded the 2020 Ted Stern Cup and is now working at AmeriCorps VISTA with Experience University of Georgia in Athens, GA. Tripp Keeffe is starting law school at the University of Georgia with a full scholarship. Jeremy Turner, a rising senior, was elected President of the Student Body for the 2020-2021 year. Sophomore Jody Bell was interviewed about learning to be a CEO on Fox 61 with a program called “Girls with Impact.” Tom Laffay, class of 2011, released a short film, “SIONA: Amazon’s Defender’s Under Threat,” which was commissioned by The New Yorker and supported by the Pulitzer Center in 2020. Vanity Reid Deterville is the new program director of GRASP: Gender Resources, Advocacy, and Support Program in Durham, NC. She was also featured as a panelist on CNN’s “Pulse of the People: SC Voters on Bloomberg, Money in Politics, and Beating Trump” as part of her advocacy through Black Votes Matter. Zainab Dossaji worked on the Elizabeth Warren Presidential Campaign and participated in a panel discussion on the importance of the youth vote on CBS This Morning. Three students received awards for their participation in the 2020 International Model African Union Conference at Howard University in Washington, DC: Karisha Desai was recognized as Best Rapporteur for the Executive Council, and Katie Hill and Morgan Rice were both recognized as Outstanding Delegates in the Committee on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights. Lauren Johnson and Deon McCray published an article with Drs. Amira and Ragusa, “Adversaries or Allies? Donald Trump’s Republican Support in Congress,” in *Perspectives on Politics* 17(3): 756-71. Brian Gelb, class of 2020, is starting his first year at Charleston School of Law. Piper Horel gave a presentation on her POLI 323 (The Congress) paper, “Can It Get Any Worse?
Impeachment and Polarization in the Congress” at the Pi Sigma Alpha conference at George Washington University in February. In addition, 24 students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, 143 qualified for the Honor Roll in Fall 2019, and 156 qualified for the Honor Roll in Spring 2020.

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. Jordan Ragusa took over the leadership of 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. We have an updated curriculum map to align with our new learning outcomes, and a new rubric to assess the capstone papers in order to reflect the new program learning outcomes. Lastly, we began tracking a cohort of first year students to learn how they connect with the major, transform as students, and progress through the College.

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 42% of the department, 3 of our 19 roster faculty (15%) are African American and 3 of our faculty are Asian 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*


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


Cooper, Christopher A., and H. Gibbs Knotts, “Tips for Talking with the Media.” The Department Chair, forthcoming.


*External Grants*

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.

*Karyn Amira* served on the department’s Curriculum and Assessment Committee and the Intellectual Life Committee. She served on the IT Liaison Committee and as a reader for the College’s General Education Assessment. She frequently reviews articles for academic journals. Her article, “In-Group Love vs. Out-Group Hate” was discussed in the New York Times. She was also featured on the Niskanan Center Podcast (with Dr. Jordan Ragusa), she published Charleston mayoral exit polling data (with Dr. Jordan Ragusa and Dr. Gibbs Knotts) in the Post and Courier, and she was featured on the Iowa 2020 Talks Podcast.
John Creed continues to provide considerable service to the department, sitting on the Student Awards and Recognition Committee and serving as a member on the Moore Conference Committee. 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 sits on the department’s Curriculum and Assessment Committee and served as a reader for the College’s General Education Assessment. She serves as an Honor Board Advisor.

Chris Day is the Director of the African Studies program and teaches courses for the International Studies program. He is the chair of the department’s Student Awards Committee and co-chaired the department’s Graduate School Advisor Committee. He serves as an advisor to the Honor Board. In addition, he works closely with international groups including the Enough Project. Finally, he has spoken with the media about comparative and international politics.

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. He also is a member of the department’s Student Awards Committee.

Hollis France became the Acting Chair of the department. She continues to serve on the Executive-Committee of the Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (GSEC). She was a member of the HSS Dean’s search committee, and the Women and Gender Studies Assistant Professor search committee.

Gibbs Knotts serves as Interim Dean of HSS and also served on the College’s Distance Education Committee. He speaks to community groups about the South and southern politics, and he is also a frequent commentator on political issues, appearing in local, state, national, and international media outlets. He is co-founder of the American Politics Research Team and a member of the editorial board of Social Science Quarterly. Alongside his co-author Jordan Ragusa, Dr. Knotts gave invited talks at the University of South Carolina, Coastal Carolina University, Winthrop University, and the Citadel, and was quoted in dozens of local, state, national, and international outlets. Their book, First in the South: Why South Carolina’s Presidential Primary Matters, was featured in The Post and Courier, the Greenville News, Charleston City Paper, Columbia Star, GQ Magazine, South Carolina Educational Television, WFAE (Charlotte, NC), South Carolina Public Radio, Matter of Fact with Soledad O’Brien, and National Public Radio.
Guoli Liu remains an active member of the College community, serving on the Council on Undergraduate Research. He is a member of the department’s Intellectual Life committee, and Graduate School Advisor’s Committee. 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 continued to play an active role on campus. He served as the co-Director of the William V. Moore Student Research Conference and chair of the Geography Minor Committee. He also coordinated the school’s Trujillo program and continues to serve as Curator at Large at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. The book he co-edited, *Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South*, received the 2019 Alice Award, which is a $25,000 national award given to a richly illustrated book that makes a valuable contribution to its field and demonstrates high standards of production. This award received extensive press in *Fine Books Magazine*, *The Magazine Antiques*, *Charleston City Paper*, *Charleston Currents*, and *The Post and Courier*. He serves on the Faculty Compensation Committee.

Matt Nowlin is a core MPA faculty and serves on the Admissions Committee for both the MPA and MES programs. He also served on the department’s Geography Committee and was also a peer reviewer for academic journals. He continues co-chair along with Dr. Annette Watson the Environmental Policy Research Group (EPRG).

Jordan Ragusa became the Associate Chair of the department. He continues to review articles for academic journals and serves as an editorial board member of *Political Research Quarterly*. As mentioned above, he and Dr. Gibbs Knotts gave invited talks at several universities and received extensive press coverage for their book, *First in the South: Why South Carolina’s Presidential Primary Matters*. He also published about a dozen op-eds in local papers.

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 serves on several editorial boards including *State and Local Government Review*, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, and *Public Administration Quarterly*. She was appointed by the South Carolina Governor to the Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health Center Board, where she serves as Chair. She is also Chair of the Green Heart Project. 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. She serves on
the Urban Studies Committee. She became president of the American Society of Public Administration.

Annette Watson is Director of the MES Program and an active member of the Geography Program. She is also a member of the Faculty Senate and the department’s Geography Minor Committee. She continues to co-chair along with Dr. Matt Nowlin the Environmental Policy Research Group (EPRG).

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 became the College’s Pre-Law advisor and serves as the department’s UCRA Representative. She talks frequently to reporters and publishes op-eds on topics related to law and society. She interviewed Cory Booker and Andrew Yang for the Bully Pulpit Series, and was quoted and commented in Politico, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and Christian Science Monitor.

f. Has your department or program conducted professional development opportunities for faculty? If yes, what are examples of those opportunities?

In 2019-2020, the department spent $21,868 on faculty/student travel to attend academic conferences. $916 went to cover overruns for student costs associated with Model AU (with $8,000 held in the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs). The department also held it retreat to explore challenges and opportunities beyond the 2019-2020.

g. What success have you had in meeting program, departmental, school or College goals? What obstacles prevent you from reaching specific program, departmental, school or College goals? In what way can Academic Affairs support your efforts?

In 2010-2011, we identified three areas for improvement: diversity, enrollments in the Geography minor, and faculty retention.

A more diverse faculty and study body remains an important priority for the department. We made one new Assistant Professor faculty hire. Dr. Hyokyung Kwak will be joining us this fall.

We ended the year with 393 majors. The recent growth was good news given the increasingly competitive environment. While the College’s overall enrollment has remained steady, a number of new programs have been added since 2010, and many of these programs overlap with political science. For example,
International Studies had 182 majors in Spring 2019. Similarly, Public Health now has 423 B.S. students and 78 B.A. students in the program.

Dr. Doug Friedman’s retirement for the College had placed additional strains on us being able to offer Latin American focused classes. This in turn has affected our ability to offer more classes in the Global Politics and Spaces field. The failure of Dr. Helen Delfeld to gain tenure and Dr. Friedman’s retirement, faculty who both taught in the Global Politics and Spaces field, has severely limited our courses offering in that field. Their replacement is critical to us maintaining our curricula offerings in Global Politics and Spaces.

We had mentioned in years past that our department would benefit from renovations to our office space and from updated office furniture. Finally, in Summer 2020, we moved into a new office space on the second floor of JC Long.

h. What curricular development or other major changes in the program(s) are planned for the next three years? Briefly, what resources are required to implement these?

We plan to continue our mentorship program in 2020-2021. This program connects our strong alumni base to our current students. We also plan to organize a series of Career Readiness workshops to help our students better prepare for employment after graduation. Based on our preliminary planning, we will organize the workshops around career opportunities in different economic sectors including government jobs, nonprofit jobs, and private sector opportunities. None of these changes will require additional resources, however.