

## PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE ACADEMIC MASTER PLAN

Proposed Name of Degree: B.A. Political Science

Faculty Proposing New Program: Scott A. Frisch

### **Review and Approval:**

Date of Proposal: November 1, 2004

**Signature** of Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Faculty Meeting: Academic Master Plan Task Force Meetings 2003-04  
(Please attach announcement to faculty)

Date of Consultation with Academic Affairs Administration: September, 2004

**Signature** of Academic Affairs Administration : \_\_\_\_\_

#### **1. Curriculum Committee Approval:**

Curriculum Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. Academic Senate Approval:**

Chair, Academic Senate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. Administration Approval:**

President (or designee): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Definition of the Proposed Degree Major Program**

**a. Name of the proposed degree major program, and academic year of intended implementation.**

B.A. in Political Science

Academic Year 2006-2007

**b. Name of the department, departments, division or other unit of the campus that would offer the proposed degree major program. Identify the unit that will have primary responsibility.**

Political Science Program

**c. Name, title, and rank of the individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program.**

Scott A. Frisch  
Associate Professor of Political Science

**d. Objectives of the proposed degree major program.**

Political Science is the study of government, public policies and political behavior. Political Science uses both humanistic and scientific perspectives and skills to examine all countries and regions of the world. The major in Political Science will be based on the university mission. Courses will be divided into four categories: International Politics (such as international relations, comparative politics, area studies, and American foreign policy); Multicultural and gender Politics (Latino politics, African American Politics, Women and Politics); Interdisciplinary Politics (Politics and Film, Science, Technology and Public Policy, Politics of Economic Policymaking) and Civic and Political Engagement/Service Learning (Capstone). All students will be required to take coursework in all four areas.

All majors will be required to take a Capstone course that will integrate prior learning in a community focused service learning project.

**General Objectives**

- Provide students with the opportunity to earn a B.A. degree in Political Science from California State University, Channel Islands.
- Provide students interdisciplinary and service learning opportunities.
- Graduate students with multicultural and international perspectives.
- Provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to enter law school, graduate school, and the public or private sector work force.

**Learning Objectives**

Students completing the requirements for a B.A. degree in Political Science will be able to:

- Think critically about key issues of public policy and politics
- Write clearly and with purpose on issues of international and domestic politics
- Become civically engaged through experience with a political, governmental or nonprofit organization
- Analyze political and policy problems and formulate policy options
- Use technology and traditional resources to research key local, state, national and international policy issues and present results

## **2. Justification for the Proposed Degree Major Program**

Political Science is a foundation major as listed in Academic Programs and Resource Planning in the California State University, 1980, p. 33.

Political Science is a popular major throughout the California State University system. In academic year 2002-2003, 1,112 Political Science degrees were awarded throughout the system. If programs that are frequently included in a department of Political Science (such as Public Administration, and International Relations) are included in the Political Science total, the number of majors jumps to 1,586. CSUN graduated 93 political science majors in 2003.

### **a. List of other California State University campuses currently offering or projecting the proposed degree major program; list of neighboring institutions, public and private, currently offering the proposed degree major program.**

All other CSU campuses offer political science (or Government) except CSU Monterey Bay and the California Maritime Academy.

USC, UCLA and UCSB all offer B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science

California Lutheran University offers a B.A. in Political Science

Pepperdine offers a B.A. in Political Science

### **b. Differences between the proposed program and programs listed in Section 2a above.**

Unlike traditional programs in Political Science, the CSUCI B.A. develops breadth of knowledge by requiring that students take coursework in four mission related areas – international, multicultural and gender, interdisciplinary, and civic engagement/service learning.

All CSUCI Political Science majors must complete a capstone course that integrates knowledge through undertaking a community oriented service learning project.

### **c. Professional uses of the proposed degree major program.**

The Political Science major will prepare students for careers in federal, state and local governments; law; business; international organizations; nonprofit associations and organizations; campaign management and polling; journalism; education; electoral politics, research and advocacy. In addition, the major in Political Science prepares students for graduate and professional study in the field of Political Science as well as International Relations and Public Administration.

### **d. Community/Regional/Statewide need for the proposed program.**

Ventura County is home to a large number of government employers who would benefit from a four year degree in Political Science. According to the Census Bureau, there are 31,576 state and local government employees in Ventura County as well as 8,700 civilian employees of the federal government and 6,883 military employees of the federal government. Traditionally, government employees have been attracted to the political science degree, especially coursework in public administration. Government employment is considered more stable than many other fields and there is an ongoing need for government services. Anecdotal information indicates that there is significant demand for a political science major among students already attending CSUCI.

e. The expected number of majors in the year of initiation and three years and five years thereafter. The expected number of graduates in the year of initiation and three years and five years thereafter.

| Initiation Year | <u>Number of Majors</u> | <u>Number of Graduates</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
|                 | 20                      | 0                          |
| Third year      | 30                      | 10                         |
| Fifth year      | 50                      | 20                         |

3. Resources Needs for the Proposed Degree Major Program (faculty, instructional, library, other)

a. Existing.

Classroom Space

The CSUCI Library already has the basic electronic databases necessary to begin a political science program – JSTOR, CQ Weekly Report, CQ Researcher, Lexis-Nexis (Congressional Universe), ProQuest, Countrywatch Forecast, Factiva, Rand California. Additional books will need to be purchased to fill out the political science collection.

b. Future.

An additional faculty member will be needed to begin the program.

Additional faculty as the program expands commensurate with growth

Classroom space to accommodate growth