

Political Science
Annual Assessment Report 2018

I. Program Assessment Meeting
May 30, 2018

Attendees: Professor Tabrizi and Professor Lumumba-Kassongo

Topic discussed: civic engagement initiatives (Democracy and Leadership Series), introductory course enrollment, assessment plan revision, major structure revision

II & III Closing the Loop and Data Assessment

Our focus last year was to increase offerings promoting civic engagement. To do that, Political Science has partnered with Business and Student Activities to launch the Democracy and Leadership Series. The mission of the series states: "This series brings students together with local, regional, national and international leaders to learn about their leadership path, examine the characteristics of successful leaders and share ways to take a leadership role in our democracy." In 2018, we initiated the series with three events: "This is What Democracy Looks Like" – a film and discussion featuring activist Karina Arango; "From the Seat You are Sitting in Right Now: Making the Move from Average Citizen to Agent for Change", featuring a lunch discussion with Wells alumna and Tompkins County Legislator, Deborah Dawson; "How to Listen", an interactive workshop on developing listening and understanding skills across cultural divides led by Wells Director of Campus Life for Diversity and Inclusion, Latesha Fussel.

Data to assess the Democracy and Leadership Series is anecdotal. As this is a new feature of the major, we do not have specific assessment measures in place to measure against. That said, we consider this part of our general goal of increasing civic engagement so observations of participation, engagement and impact are relevant.

These first three events were very successful. Attendance was good, with 20 students attending the film/discussion, 8 students and 12 faculty/staff/administrators attending the luncheon and 17 students attending the skills training. We are pleased with attendance but will plan increased outreach to students to bolster participation in future events.

Reaction to the programming was positive. Attendees at the film/discussion participated in excellent follow-up q&a with the guest speaker, students were engaged with the luncheon guest, although several expressed afterward that they wish they had asked more questions and participated more; participation at the workshop was enthusiastic and attendees expressed that they felt that they learned important skills. Attendees at all events expressed a desire to attend future events.

IV. Program Changes for the Following Year

Our future plans for the Democracy and Leadership Series aim to build off the success of these initial three programs. We are inviting speakers to participate in campus wide lectures and small group discussions as we find that multiple formats for exposing students to different

types of leaders offers the opportunity for a wide range of connections (from hearing something inspiring to meeting a potential internship sponsor). In all cases, the goal is to increase the extent to which students can see themselves in those playing leadership roles in our democracy.

In addition to the Democracy and Leadership Series guest speakers, we are planning a leadership training program, tentatively titled "Leadership for Democracy" that is designed to be a 5-7 workshop series for students which will include trainings in understanding personal strengths, listening and understanding across cultures, conflict resolution and problem solving. This certificate program is a joint venture between the Democracy and Leadership Series and the Office of Campus Life for Diversity and Inclusion.

V. Action Plan for Following Year

We will continue to assess our efforts at increasing civic engagement among political science students and across campus. Due to the fact that we are just starting the Democracy and Leadership Series and (hopefully) the Leadership for Democracy Certificate program, it makes sense for these initiatives to form the basis of our assessment for next year. We hope to have positive results to report.

Updated Assessment Plan:

The political science assessment plan is being completely revised and will be updated for Fall 2018.