AOC Summary of Political Science Assessment Review

On April 27, 2009, the Assessment Oversight Committee (AOC) conducted an assessment review of Political Science. Dr. John Rink presented the report. He identified the various tools employed by the Political Science program to assess student learning. Most importantly, Dr. Rink shared how the Political Science program noticed a problem with low student grades in all sections of Introduction to American Government (Political Science 1230) and how they responded through the use of a Supplemental Instruction Leader (SIL) under the provisions of a grant program. The results of their efforts were successful; the overall GPA for these sections increased from 2.08 to 2.29 in 2007-2008 and to 2.4 in Fall 2008. Dr. Rink also highlighted the success of the extra-curricular Mediation Team, which is composed of political science and criminal justice majors. For example, the Mediation Team won the 2006 national championship in mediation advocacy and it won five All-American awards for individual achievement.

The AOC commends Dr. Rink and the Political Science program for its assessment work, especially the improvements made to Political Science 1230 through the use of an SIL. If Political Science wishes to use a student tutor in the future, the program should contact Dr. Joanne Wilson, Director of the First Year Experience.