



**To:** Vice President Academic and Research  
**From:** Chair of the Department of Law and Politics  
**Date:** January 20, 2022  
**Re:** Report of the Law and Politics Department on the status of the Political Science Implementation Plan  
**Due:** February 5, 2022 (due 18 months after the Senate approval of the Final Assessment Report)

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Dear VPAR,

Please accept this 18 Month Status Update, following the March 2020 Political Science Draft Implementation Plan. Below are the 15 recommendations from the Draft Implementation Plan, followed by an account of actions taken by faculty in Political Science to implement those recommendations.

Article 3.6.11 IQAP (pp. 48-49):

“The Department prepares a report of the status of the Implementation Plan 18 months following Senate approval of the Final Assessment Report (FAR). The CAO monitors the completion of the status report. The Department submits the status report to the CAO who submits it to AppComm for review. In consultation with QualCom, AppCom may request additional information or action from the Department. When AppCom is satisfied with the 18-Month Status Report, AppCom forwards a recommendation to Senate for approval of the report. The Office of the CAO forwards the Senate-approved status report to the Board of Governors for information. The Office of the CAO posts the approved 18-month status report on the web and forwards it to the Quality Council.”

**Progress on Implementation Plan**

Briefly describe the status of each recommendation. If the status is incomplete, provide a rationale. If there were any alterations to the original Implementation Plan, please provide the rationale.

Recommendation 1	Continue developing the collaboration with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) and the Anishinaabe Studies program.
Status:	<i>Completed/in progress</i>
Details:	Our department has continued to work on these collaborations. We have begun conversations with Prof. Judge in October, 2021, about the possibility of including ANII's courses, ANII3006 Government Acts and Policies and ANII3007 Treaties, on a POLI approved course list.
Recommendation 2	The POLI faculty and the administration should work collaboratively on the development of e-learning.
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	With the move to TAI course delivery due to the Covid pandemic, our program got more than a full year of experience in e-learning course delivery. Prof. Tchir and Prof. Akinola have been teaching on Zoom very regularly, as well using the Moodle platform for various aspects of course delivery. Once things normalize, we will assess which aspects of e-learning we want to maintain. For example, in Nov., 2021, we decided to offer a course in the Winter 2022 term, POLI3107, Treaty Relations, via remote synchronous asynchronous delivery.
Recommendation 3	Balance international /global content with the special mission of Algoma to Indigenize its curriculum
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We hired a full time tenure track prof in international / global content, Prof. Akinola, in July, 2021. As one of two FT professors in the POLI program, we are very much committed to curriculum/programming in this area. Over the last two years, we have introduced several courses in this area, and established a Specialization in International Relations for POLI majors. This is balanced with a commitment to indigenization of curriculum. We have made revisions to each course that we deliver, in order to incorporate some indigenous content in almost every one of our courses. Also, our three new specializations all incorporate some electives specializing in indigenous content.

Recommendation 4	Continue to integrate Indigenous content to courses and decolonize the classroom
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We have made revisions to each course that we deliver, in order to incorporate some indigenous content in almost every one of our courses. Also, our three new specializations all incorporate some electives specializing in indigenous content, ANII1006, ANII1007, ANII1206, ANII2006, ANII2007, ANII3006, ANII3007. We endeavour to decolonize the classroom by continuously unpacking and challenging the theory and practice of colonialism and imperialism, by comparing and contrasting indigenous and Western theory and methodology, and by incorporating sharing circle style of seminar discussion, not just lectures. Prof. Tchir was awarded the 2021 Faculty award at convocation for these efforts.
Recommendation 5	With the support of Anishinaabe stakeholders, develop meaningful relationships with local Indigenous communities; it could be particularly interesting for the placement course
Status:	<i>Completed/in progress</i>
Details:	We continue to do this work. We met with the former chief of Serpent River First Nations in summer 2021, and established an internship for a student within the Nationhood Council House.
Recommendation 6	Use the unique geographical position of Sault-Ste-Marie/ Baawating (located on Anishinaabe territory divided by a settler international border) in course content and make it a signature of your program
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We continue to teach several key concepts within Political Science (borders, Can-American political/economic relations, Jay Treaty) in a way inspired by our geographical location. We also maintain our twice-a-year Can-Am student debate with LSSU, one of three key out-of-class experiential learning pieces in the program.
Recommendation 7	Work collaboratively with recruitment and marketing to attract more Indigenous students into the program
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We certainly have worked collaboratively with recruitment and marketing to attract more students of all kinds. We include messaging in our recruitment materials that highlights our

	program's focus on Indigenous content, so this should attract Indigenous students. We have several indigenous students taking our classes.
Recommendation 8	Opportunities for co-op should be developed
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We have developed our new POLI3026/4026 Political Science Internship course and, working with Eunjung Riauka, had our first four internships between Spring and Fall 2021, with United Way, Nationhood Council House (not completed), Soo Today, and the Chamber of Commerce.
Recommendation 9	Consider the possibility of changing prerequisites to 30 university credits to get into any POLI3000 and 60 university credits to get into any POLI 4000.
Status:	<i>in progress</i>
Details:	We will continue to consider this recommendation. We think that this makes good sense for non-POLI students especially, who might want to take our upper year courses, without the current prerequisites. There are some courses that are a bit too specialized for this to work well, and the students really should take the prerequisites, but this is not the case for most of our upper year courses. We will, perhaps, implement this recommendation, but we have been waiting until our cognate program within the Department, Law and Justice, draws near to the end of their current discussion over JURI program revision. Many of their program changes will affect POLI courses with which they are cross-listed, so it makes more sense to do a broad sweeping round of program changes, course revisions, all at once. We will propose this idea to the department in December, 2021.
Recommendation 10	Explore new possibilities for cross-listing, service courses, and reciprocal lists of approved courses counting towards degrees.
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	As part of Law and Justice's program revision discussions, their program and Political Science have added more cross-listed courses, added more Political Science courses to the JURI approved course list, and Political Science is planning on introducing its first approved course list, which will include several JURI courses, possibly two ANII courses (see Recommendation #1).

Recommendation 11	Continue discussions with colleagues about potential courses to be cross listed or put on an approved course list, mindful of potential conflicts around scheduling and course cycling.
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	As part of Law and Justice’s program revision discussions, their program and Political Science have added more cross-listed courses, added more Political Science courses to the JURI approved course list, and Political Science is planning on introducing its first approved course list, which will include several JURI courses, possibly two ANII courses (see Recommendation #1).
Recommendation 12	Consider inclusion of an academic writing requirement in the first year of the program.
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We have considered including ENGL1801 and ENGL1802 on the upcoming Political Science Approved Course list, as a signal to new POLI majors that they should ameliorate their academic writing. We do not want to make this a core requirement, so as to encourage a wide degree of choice in the first year, however.
Recommendation 13	Drop or rename the methods course (e.g. as “Political Ideologies”) and create an approved course list of methods courses based on current offerings in other departments.
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We experimented for one year with an approved course list of methods courses, instead of offering POLI3127. There were mixed results. Then, in 2021, JURI and POLI cross-listed their two methods courses, POLI3127 and JURI2996, which worked very well. We are currently proposing a formalization of this cross-list, with two new courses POLI2XXX and JURI2XXX, Research Methods in Law and Politics, deleting POLI3127.
Recommendation 14	Consider and implement the active exchange of learning experiences between cohorts, with upper year students reporting on their experiential learning placements to first year students.
Status:	<i>Completed/in progress</i>
Details:	We only just had our first internship placements this late spring, but will certainly invite those who participated to share their experiences in a program wide Zoom call during the Winter 2022

	semester, and continue this practice in the future. The three main EXP pieces aside from the internship, CAN-AM, Model UN, and participation in running the local televised elections debates at three levels of government, all benefit from significant word of mouth communication between upper and lower year students, particularly in the framework of the student club, Law and Political Student Society, whose exec visits classrooms each semester to let first year students know about these and other activities.
Recommendation 15	Develop specific recruiting and advising tools for the Political Science degrees (including the benefits of a POLI degree, as a standard pre-law degree and as liberal arts studies with elements of social science).
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We did this, and for the last two Fall Recruitment Open Houses, have held virtual booths and talks with prospective students, making use of our program's updated recruitment messaging. Prof. Tchir met with the entire recruitment team in Sept. 2021, in a meeting organized by Rebecca Rucurean, to explain the program.

Please use the space below to report on anything the Department/Program believes is appropriate to bring to the Algoma University Senate concerning this program. Please outline and explain any circumstances that have altered the original Implementation Plan and any significant developments or initiatives that have arisen since the program review.

n/a

**Implementation Plan (from FAR)**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed Follow Up</b>	<b>Responsible for Leading Follow-Up</b>	<b>Timeline for Addressing Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
1.	Continue developing the collaboration with Shingwauk	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	One year	None

	Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG) and the Anishinaabe Studies program			
2.	The POLI faculty and the administration should work collaboratively on the development of e-learning	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Three years	An expert in developing and implementing e-learning materials, the appropriate e-learning software. More faculty (in addition to the two FT Political Science professors necessary for running the program) for teaching online courses, including the evaluation of student assignments.
3.	Balance international /global content with the special mission of Algoma to Indigenize its curriculum	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Two years	The Political Science program will require that after the current CLTA in International Relations / Global Politics is finished and ineligible for any more CLTA extensions, end of June 2021, it be able to hire for a Tenure Track position in that same field.
4.	Continue to integrate Indigenous content to courses and decolonize the classroom	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	One year	None
5.	With the support of Anishinaabe stakeholders, develop meaningful relationships	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Two years	It would be helpful if the EL office had existing relationships with the First Nations in the area, to help develop placement opportunities.

	with local Indigenous communities; it could be particularly interesting for the placement course			
6.	Use the unique geographical position of Sault-Ste-Marie/ Baawating (located on Anishinaabe territory divided by a settler international border) in course content and make it a signature of your program	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	One year	Continuing to make this a feature of the course content will require no new resources. We will require that the recruitment office feature this dimension of our program more to students who would find it appealing, so we will have to work with them more closely.
7.	Work collaboratively with recruitment and marketing to attract more Indigenous students into the program	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	One year	None
8.	Opportunities for co-op should be developed	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Two years	This would be facilitated greatly by a staff person in the EL office that has developed networks with all levels of government in and around Sault Ste. Marie.



9.	Consider the possibility of changing the prerequisites to 30 university credits to get into any POLI 3000 and 60 university credits to get into any POLI 4000	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Six months	None
10.	Explore new possibilities for cross-listing, service courses, and reciprocal lists of approved courses counting towards degrees	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Six months	None
11.	Continue discussions with colleagues about potential courses to be cross-listed or put on an approved course list, mindful of potential conflicts around scheduling and course cycling	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Six months	None

12.	Consider inclusion of an academic writing requirement in the first year of the program	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Six months	None
13.	Drop or rename the methods course (e.g. as "Political Ideologies") and create an approved course list of methods courses based on current offerings in other departments	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Six months	None
14.	Consider and implement the active exchange of learning experiences between the cohorts, with upper year students reporting on their experiential learning placements to first year students	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	Two years	We need more capabilities within the EL office to network with the various levels of government and political offices in order to help create the experiential learning placements.

15.	Develop specific recruiting and advising tools for the Political Science degrees (including the benefits of a POLI degree, as a standard pre-law degree and as liberal arts studies with elements of social science)	Department Chair and Faculty Chair	One year	None
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