



January 25, 2006

Ms. Sue Wittick
Higher Education Coordinator
Office of Professional Preparation Services
Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Sue:

I am writing to provide University of Detroit-Mercy's response to the review panel's recommendations regarding our Political Science endorsement program as dated April 19, 2005.

Reviewers indicated that our program did not meet the following standard:

- ∞ *2.2 Describe the five themes of geography and apply them to world geography.* "This standard is only minimally addressed in POL 100."

The five themes of Geography are location, place, human-environment-interaction, movement, and region.

POL 100, Introduction to Political Science, concentrates early in the course on political culture as it relates to geography. A world map is provided on the first day of class. Also, as indicated in the second paragraph on the second page of the POL 100 syllabus, students select a nation on which they must report once a week, in ways related to various subjects in the course. In the process of identifying and gaining approval for concentrating on a specific nation-state, a student must identify its location and place in relation to neighboring countries and cultures. Human-environmental interaction and freedom of movement as well as the implications of region and regional concerns are dealt with and are inextricable from the subject matter of the course: ideology; ethnicity and race; religion; individual participation in politics, e.g., attitudes, opinions, interests; mix of motives; interest groups; political parties; international politics; lawmaking (in legislature, by the executive); by judges, by political parties; making government work (executives and bureaucrats; public policy (factors determining); justice systems and how judges are chosen; levels of government within states and the nature of subnational government, e.g., unitary, federal, and confederal political systems; intermediate levels of government (provincial, regional, local, submunicipal); international and regional governments; political and economic

globalization. The weekly required study guides included with the POL 100 syllabus often reflect the weekly reporting out about students' various countries.

Reviewers also indicated a desire for additional information and we outline here our steps to address their requests.

1. Reviewers requested the syllabi for POL 324 (Government Budgeting), POL 325 (Comparative Public Administration), POL 347 (Administrative Law) POL 457 (International Political Economy), and POL 467 (Politics in Africa.)

Syllabi for each of the above are now included in the "Program Syllabi" section of our Political Science endorsement program submission with the exception of two syllabi. POL 347 (Administrative Law), has not been taught for a number of years and was submitted in error. Please substitute POL 323 (Public Personnel Administration and Labor Relations), which is included in our current submission. We have updated the 'Summary of Course Requirements' to reflect this substitution. POL 457 has also not been taught in a number of years and we have removed it from the 'Summary of Course Requirements' as it is not available to students at this time.

2. Regarding Standard 1.2, "the institution references POL 409. No syllabus was provided for this course and it was not included on the List of Required Courses (Form XX)."

POL 409 does not exist. This apparently was a typographical error for POL 499, Senior Seminar, which is required only of Political Science majors. It is a capstone course; its content varies depending on which faculty member is teaching in a particular term. Its course description is as follows:

POL 499, Senior Seminar

Prerequisite: Senior Standing

Designed to provide the student with an opportunity to integrate a specific problem with the total field of Political Science. Intensive research and/or reading on a particular theme or topic. Course content varies from term to term.

3. Reviewers commented that "The documentation states that 13% of the required coursework focuses on Michigan history and government. Reviewers did not find evidence of this in syllabi."

Reference to state and local government and political activity is a major portion of classes in American Politics, Political Science, Public Policy, Introduction to Law, Government Budgeting¹, and Public Personnel and Labor Relations². Development of the Constitution; the Bill of Rights with special attention to the 10th Amendment regarding the role of the states; federalism and intergovernmental relations, including categorical and block grants; devolution; the supremacy of the national government and the inability of a State to tax the national government (*McCulloch v. Maryland*); the relationship of state law to local ordinances, i.e., the role of the states' in impacting the lives of individual citizens in their

¹ Deals with the fact that State mandates control the forms and practices of local government finances.

² Deals with Michigan control of public employees generally, the extent to which they may be involved in collective bargaining, the role of Michigan Public Act 312 (mandatory binding interest arbitration for police and fire personnel), and (when appropriate) the requirements of Public Act 112 regarding the collective bargaining rights of public school teachers. The relationship of personnel practices to budgetary realities.

local environs; the states as the fundamental loci of party organization and control over voting procedures; civil liberties and civil rights; and the increased power of the federal government as the result of expansion of the commerce power. It is apparent that any attempt to separate history from government in such an undertaking is futile³. It is also apparent that the UDM Political Science faculty, in order to teach these concepts effectively, must and do engage in their constructive development by explicating, motivating, and leading class discussion regarding the application of these ideas to the state/local political and/or governmental environment in Michigan.

Recognizing that basic minimal reading in Michigan history and government would be desirable, the Political Science faculty will investigate the feasibility of requiring one of two publications as assigned reading in the federalism/state and local government portion of POL 210, American Politics. The publications are as follows:

- ∞ *For The People, By The People: How State And Local Governments Operate*. (Prepared by the Michigan Legislature: Lansing, MI, 2003.
- ∞ *The State We're In: A Citizen's Guide to Michigan State Government*. Elizabeth Moore (ed.) League of Women Voters of Michigan: Lansing, MI, 1995.

Should similar texts become available, their merits will be considered.

4. Reviewers also indicated that the Department of Education should provide an overview of the Michigan Curriculum Framework and MEAP for political science faculty.

The chair of the Political Science Department played a significant role in helping the Education Department address reviewer comments and the Education Department has formally presented the MCF to the Political Science faculty members during Fall 2005.

Our response for Political Science, dated January 25, 2006, can be viewed at:
<http://www.udmercy.edu/accredreport/politicalscience.html>

We look forward to receiving comments from reviewers and the Michigan Department of Education regarding our Political Science endorsement program.

Sincerely,

Donald G. DiPaolo, Ph.D.
Chair, Education Department
(313) 578-0472
dipaoldo@udmercy.edu

³ Michigan's public education system is directly related to the earliest U.S. public policy of record regarding public education: the Land Ordinance of 1785 followed by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, covering land north of the Ohio River including what is now Michigan, and requiring that four sections in each township be reserved for public schools and their maintenance.