

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation   
Decision   
Discussion/Direction   
Information

DATE: 28 February 2023

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Political Science Minor

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### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and the creation of the Political Science Minor in Global Studies.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing the following changes:

1. Revise 1st year required courses (per changes to the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities);
2. Update Political Science approved electives;
3. Change methods requirements from two courses to one course at second year level;
4. Rename and restructure the Political Communication specialization;
5. Rename and restructure the Social Justice, Globalization and Development specialization;
6. Add a new minor - Global Studies;
7. Create a Double Major with Legal Studies that can be completed in four years; and
8. Update modes of delivery for all Political Science courses.

### RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

## **TRANSITION PLAN**

- The course map changes will apply to all incoming first year students. Second and third-year students who have not yet completed two research methods courses will only be required to complete one.
- Students currently enrolled in the Social Justice, Globalization and Development or the Political Communications specializations will follow the existing course maps.
- Currently enrolled POSC students will have the opportunity to take the new specializations by meeting the degree requirements.
- Both Political Science and Legal Studies will continue to offer courses to satisfy the degree requirements for their respective majors. Students would only pursue the double major by choice or continue with their current program maps.
- The new minor will be open to students from any program within the university outside of the Political Science program, with the appropriate pre-requisites.

## **CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:**

- Undergraduate Studies Committee: 17 January 2023
- Faculty Council: 20 December 2022
- Curriculum Committee: 6 December 2022

Consultation occurred with the FSSH Dean, Associate Dean, Academic Advising (providing student perspectives), and program directors.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, the changes will be included in the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

## **SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- [Political Science](#)
- Global Studies Minor calendar copy\*
- Course changes: POSC Mode of Delivery – EDITED FLEX\* (course changes compiled in yellow columns)

\*Available in the proposal link above under 'files.'