

Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template/Abbreviated Template with Curriculum

Institution Submitting Request: Dixie State University

Proposed Title: Institute of Politics and Public Affairs

Currently Approved Title: N/A

School or Division or Location: Dixie State University

Department(s) or Area(s) Location: N/A

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs): N/A

Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): N/A

Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 09/01/2016

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date: MM/DD/YEAR

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

Regents' General Consent Calendar Items		
R401-5 OCHE Review and Recommendation; Approval on General Consent Calendar		
SECTION NO.		ITEM
5.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emphasis*
5.2.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Proficiency*
5.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Certificate*
5.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Administrative Unit
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation
5.4.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Center
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Institute
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau
5.5.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs
5.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation
5.5.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs
5.5.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
5.5.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Administrative Unit

*Requires "Section V: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Signature

Date:

MM/DD/YEAR

Printed Name:

¹ CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

Program Request - Abbreviated Template
Dixie State University
Institute of Politics and Public Affairs
01/01/2016

Section I: Request

Dixie State University (DSU) seeks approval of an Institute of Politics and Public Affairs effective September 1, 2016. This institute will serve DSU as a hub for civic engagement, student leadership and public policy education and research. It's core mission will be to inspire students to pursue careers in public service by providing them opportunities to connect with policymakers, politicians, activists and academics.

As DSU pursues a new set of strategic priorities, the Institute will (1) boost student involvement and retention, (2) ensure the university plays a more active role in Southern Utah's civic and cultural environment and (3) increase the university's public profile.

Section II: Need

In order for any democracy to function properly, its citizenry must be well-informed and active in the public arena. Achieving such an environment is a task that requires the continued effort of civic organizations, institutions of higher education and the community more broadly. In Utah, voter turnout has slipped dramatically in recent decades (Salt Lake Tribune). Nationally, interest in the political system among college-age young people is also declining (Center for Research on Civic Learning and Engagement). The Institute of Politics and Public Affairs will address these trends and bolster educational and political engagement opportunities in Southern Utah by hosting debates, student discussions, speaker series and other community events designed to disseminate information and stimulate debate.

As the challenges that face local, state and federal governments continue to grow, it is imperative that colleges and universities produce graduates who are prepared for and committed to careers in public policy. The Institute will inspire students to pursue such careers by providing experiential learning opportunities that showcase the advantages and opportunities associated with public policy work. One of the Institute's key functions will be to offer a variety of internships related to government and public policy. In addition to drawing students towards these types of careers, internships will assist students in charting their career path and finding full-time employment after graduation.

As DSU pursues a strategic plan focused on community engagement and service, the Institute will provide always-needed community service to the Southern Utah region. Civic-oriented service, such as voter registration, exit polling and etc. will play a key role in the Institute's activities.

Finally, as the need for increased political education and engagement has become more acute, all but two of Utah's public universities has established a center or institute related to the study of politics and government:

- Southern Utah University: Michael O. Leavitt Center for Politics and Public Service
- Utah State University: Institute of Government and Politics
- University of Utah: Hinckley Institute
- Weber State University: Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics and Public Service

As Utah's newest university, DSU's Institute of Politics and Public Affairs will play an integral role in adding stature and purpose to the university's mission.

Section III: Institutional Impact

University-Wide Benefits

In addition to increasing campus engagement and political activity (discussed above), the Institute will over time contribute to higher retention and enrollment rates at DSU. Studies have shown that students who are more involved in campus extra-curricular activities are more likely to continue their education and eventually graduate (Research in Higher Education Journal). The Institute of Politics and Public Affairs will provide another means whereby students of all backgrounds and interests can get involved in campus and community life. Similarly, increased publicity of Institute events and internships will make DSU a more attractive institution for students who value politics, public policy and extra-curricular engagement.

Organizational Placement

The Institute will function as a quasi-independent entity within DSU's student affairs department, with close ties to the Dixie State University Student Association Senate. Because of the Institute's apolitical nature, a degree of impartiality will be maintained. The Institute's director will report jointly to the Vice President for Student Services and the Dean of Students. Until a full-time director position is made available, DSU's Community, State & Federal Relations Officer will assume responsibility for the Institute.

Collaborative Nature

The Institute will adopt a collaborative role on campus, working closely with the School of Humanities, DSUSA, the Career Center, and the Women's Resource Center to provide students with a variety of academic, experiential and leadership opportunities. The Center will also work with and assist in the development of a leadership minor at DSU. Because no political science center currently exists at DSU, and because the university's political science program is relatively small, the Institute will supplement, rather than crowd out, existing structures. It will be the goal of the Institute to centralize all non-academic public policy and government-related student activity under one roof.

From its inception, the Institute will partner closely with the DSUSA Senate. Consisting of DSUSA's Vice President of Academics and each school's student senator, the senate's functions currently include funding individual academic requests, overseeing student-led initiatives and planning DSUSA's government-related activities. In recent years, the Senate has expanded its experiential learning opportunities to include Legislation Day, Political Involvement Week, and participation in Higher Education Day at the Utah State Capitol and Utah's Intercollegiate Legislature. Under the leadership of the Institute of Politics and Public Affairs, these programs will provide active learning opportunities for all interested students.

Facilities

It is critical that the Institute obtain an office space in a central campus location. A visible office space near a main campus footpath will allow the Institute to attract students to activities and other events. Currently, there are plans to relocate the campus bookstore from the Gardner Center. It is anticipated that the Institute will be housed in a portion of the space vacated by the bookstore.

Section IV: Finances

Budget

The following budget is suggested for fiscal year 2015-2016. At its inception, a small reallocation of student fees (\$1) will fund the Institute. In addition to these fees, the Institute will partner with and receive funding from DSUSA's Senate. No funds will be drawn from the School of Humanities. Finally, there are opportunities for funding from community members and charitable organizations.

One-Time Costs

Item	Description	Cost
Start-up costs	Computer (1 X \$2,000)	\$2,000
	Printer (1 X \$200)	\$200
Facilities	Office space renovation	\$1,000
	Office furniture	\$500
		Total: \$3,700

Ongoing Costs

Category	Description	Cost
Student scholarship stipends	Student Director: Full Tuition Scholarship (1 X \$4,300) Student Council Members: 4 X \$1,000 stipend	\$8,300
General events	Debates, educational forums, symposia	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	Advertising; office supplies	\$500
		Total: \$10,800

Senate Costs (covered by existing DSUSA Senate funding)

Item	Description	Cost
General events	UCC Legislative Day, Political Involvement Week, Higher Education Day, Legislation Day	\$3,000
Pizza & Politics	Weekly, student-led forums on current political issues (25 X \$200)	\$5,000
Advertising	NA	\$1,000
		Total: \$9,000

Future Expenses

In addition to the above expenses, the Institute will eventually require the service of a full-time director to oversee student activity, events and internships. This position would also be available to serve as a DSUSA Senate advisor.

Citations

The Center for Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. *2014 Youth Turnout and Youth Registration Rates Lowest Ever Recorded; Changes Essential in 2016*. <http://www.civicyouth.org/2014-youth-turnout-and-youth-registration-rates-lowest-ever-recorded-changes-essential-in-2016/>

Research in Higher Education Journal. *Student Involvement/Engagement in Higher Education Based on Student Origin*. <http://www.aabri.com/manuscripts/09346.pdf>

The Salt Lake Tribune. *Utah had 3rd Lowest Voter Turnout Among States*. <http://www.sltrib.com/news/1873023-155/utah-had-3rd-lowest-voter-turnout-among>

