

Action Plan Progress Report

Graduate Program in Political Economy, June 27, 2017

1. Conduct regular exit surveys of graduates

The Institute continues monitoring student employment/studies after graduation using social media through LinkedIn, Facebook and social media.

2. Include 'quality assurance' identification among the tasks for the development of a committee structure in IPE.

The Institute created a Curriculum Committee composed of the director and the 3 professors in charge of the core courses offered, PECO 5000 (Theories of Political Economy), PECO 5001 (The Methodology of Political Economy) and PECO 6000 (Political Economy: Core Concepts). The committee met once in the academic year 2016-17 and will meet again in August for the academic year 2017-18.

4. IPE needs to conduct a review of its core courses to both ensure that the content has consistency over time, but also to see if the content generates the outcomes desired. Ideally a committee focusing on curriculum would do this.

The Curriculum Committee oversees the consistency and complementarity of courses, identifies problems and offer solutions. The tasks identified included:

- Share outlines of the 3 core courses
- Exchange information between incoming and outgoing professors of the courses.
- Commit instructors to teach the courses at least 2 consecutive years.
- Advise director on the following activities: selection of students and assignment of candidates to major scholarships and prizes.

The Committee will meet in August for the second time to discuss challenges and activities for the academic year 2017-18. On the occasion of the change of professor for PECO 4001, the Director has already met with the outgoing (Marie-Eve Carrier-Moisan) and incoming instructor (Marc Andre Gagnon) to ensure continuity in the seminar.

6. That IPE institute a small curriculum committee and/or steering committee

A Curriculum Committee was created (See points 2 and 4).

7. That IPE considers establishing an advisory committee that might include those within Carleton and from the wider community. This committee might function as a program committee that could plan and publicize IPE events.

An Advisory Committee will be in place by the Fall of 2017. In the meantime, the Institute has taken important steps to reach a wider academic community and non-academic community, as follows:

-Brought in as adjunct professors well known political economists working in government and private institutions, including Dr Peter Bleyer, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; and Dr Aaron Henry, Policy Analyst (PARDP), Department of Natural Resources. We will request the inclusion of Dr Judy Meltzer, Director General, Carbon Pricing Bureau, Environment and Climate Change Canada (April 2017-ongoing).

-Conducted interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral dialogue about the future of political economy. The Institute, with the help of the deans of FPA and FASS organized the Conference “Political Economy: Old Challenges, New Responses”. The conference had 24 speakers, 13 of them from Canadian, American and Australian universities and from non-academic institutions (Broadbent Institute, Oxfam Canada, Canadians for Tax Fairness and Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives). The conference was well-attended with close to 100 participants from Carleton and the broader Ottawa community.

-Enhanced the reach of the Institute outside the university: the Institute initially made a proposal to conduct a needs assessment to investigate the feasibility of establishing a non-credit Certificate in Work and Labour. The Dean of FPA provided financial resources for a feasibility study. Former Visiting Professor and Adjunct Research Professor of the Institute, Dr Teresa Healy, will conduct the study. To support this idea she formed a working group with Rosemary Warskett and the Director of the Institute, and professionals with experience in labour training. They met with the Canadian Labour Congress and after several meetings reached the conclusion that the non-credit certificate should not be offered but be replaced by a Graduate Diploma in Work and Labor. The Dean included the establishment of the Diploma in Carleton’s list of proposed new programs to the Strategic Management Agreement Committee. The Committee approved the inclusion in April, 2017. Teresa Healy will present the report in the fall and we expect to launch the Diploma as soon as Carleton and provincial approvals are secured.

13. IPE should work on a definition of political economy to include in its brochure

The Institute worked with the FGPA Media Officer, Lin Moody, to prepare the FPA 2018 Graduate Viewbook. The description of the Institute appears on Page 22:

“The Institute of Political Economy applies diverse critical political economy analysis to contemporary Canadian and global issues, including finance and financialization, migration and borders, environmental justice, race and racism, gender and sexuality, colonialism, violence, Indigenous movements, community participation and social transformation.

We offer three research-based degrees that provide students with opportunities to research significant world issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students can define their own research topics under the supervision of recognized Carleton experts.

Our master’s placement course allows students to network with government and nongovernmental institutions, policy-makers, researchers, and community-based organizations. Furthermore, students gain practical and on-site work experience, which helps them transition to the workplace.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Master of Arts (MA) in Political Economy exposes our students to the core concepts of political economy and helps them develop individual areas of research concentration. A specialization in African Studies is also available.”