




Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

January 22, 2015

To: David Dulio  
Chair, Department of Political Science

From: James P. Lentini   
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Re: Political Science Workload Policy

Thank you for forwarding the revised workload policy for the Department of Political Science, a copy of which is attached. The department approved that policy on November 20, 2014 and Dean Corcoran approved it on December 5, 2014. I approve this revised policy on behalf of Oakland University.

I want to thank the faculty of the Department of Political Science for their consideration of faculty workload and your effort to assure that workloads are equitable within the department.

Attachment

Cc: Kevin Corcoran, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Cathy Rush, Assistant Vice President, Academic Human Resources  
Scott Barns, Executive Director Oakland University Chapter, AAUP

**Department of Political Science  
Oakland University  
Approved by the Department: November 20, 2014**

**WORKLOAD STATEMENT**

The Department of Political Science places high value on faculty teaching. At the same time, our tenure-track and tenured faculty are also expected to pursue scholarship and engage in departmental and university service. As such, we aim to create a faculty workload that can allow faculty to devote sufficient time to teaching, research, and service.

*Normal Workload*

The typical workload for a tenure-track or tenured faculty member is a 3-2 course load. Normally this would be 20 academic hours, composed of five four-credit classes. In many cases, faculty teach the same class each semester, so that there are fewer than five course preparations each year. In recent years, we have not granted a special research leave for faculty with a more active research agenda, although this issue has been raised—especially by junior faculty—from time to time.

Our special instructors, who have no research or service obligations (although some do engage in department or university service) normally teach a 3-3 load.

Spring/summer teaching is entirely optional for all faculty.

*Administrative Course Reductions*

The department chair, responsible for various administrative matters in the department, teaches a 1-1 course load.

The Director of the Masters of Public Administration, who oversees that program and supervises the MPA coordinator, teaches a 2-1 course load.

The department has two internship directors (one for PS and IR and one for PA undergrad and graduate). Their work is not only during the academic year but extends over the summer (the department offers the internship course in the summer but these instructors do not receive summer pay for this course).

The Coordinator of the International Relations Program receives a one-course reduction (2-2 load) for a variety of activities in the department, some of which are also undertaken in the summer.