



Department of Political Studies

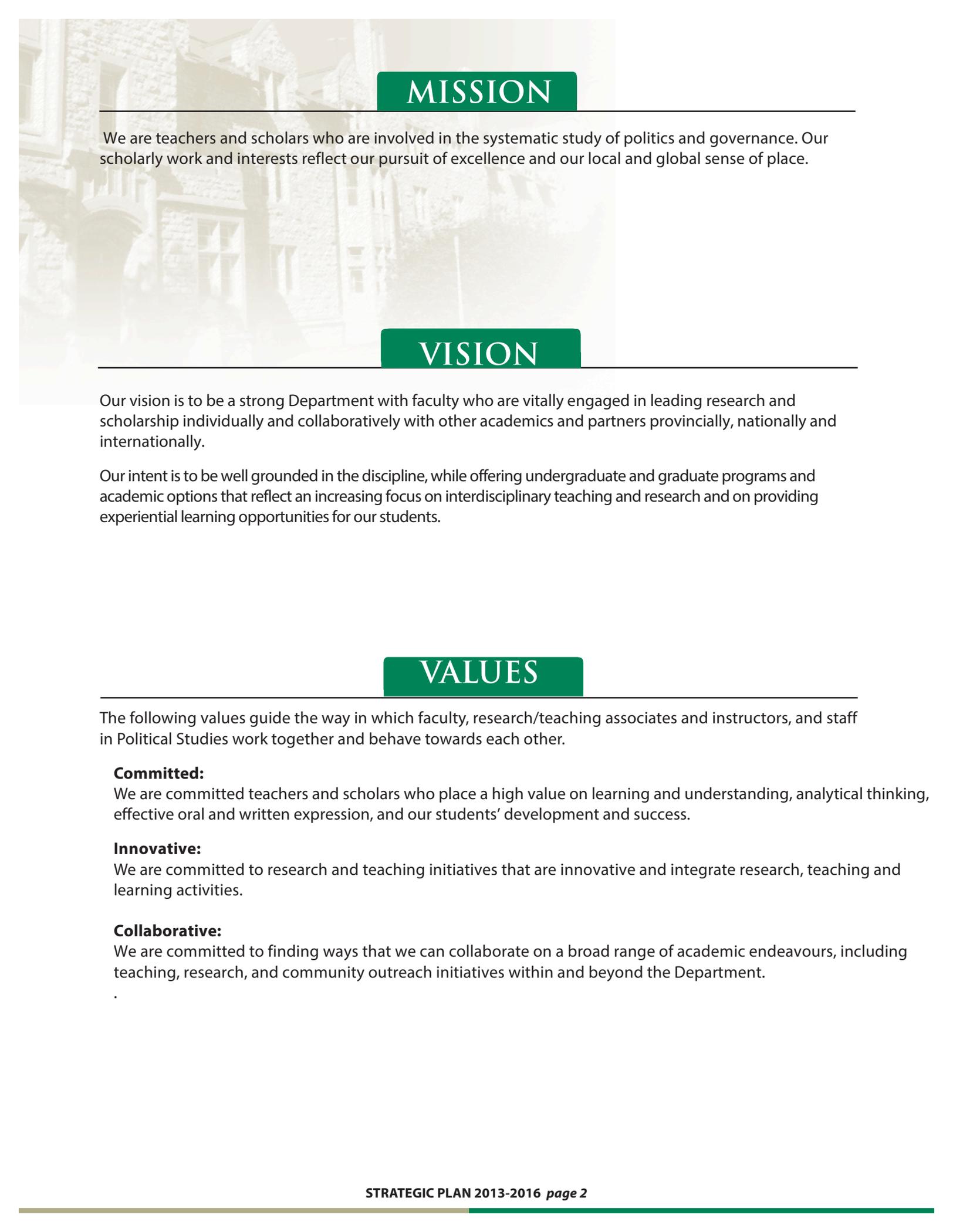
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**STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2016:**

**“RENEWAL, RELEVANCE  
AND RESPONSIVENESS”**



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN



## MISSION

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We are teachers and scholars who are involved in the systematic study of politics and governance. Our scholarly work and interests reflect our pursuit of excellence and our local and global sense of place.

## VISION

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Our vision is to be a strong Department with faculty who are vitally engaged in leading research and scholarship individually and collaboratively with other academics and partners provincially, nationally and internationally.

Our intent is to be well grounded in the discipline, while offering undergraduate and graduate programs and academic options that reflect an increasing focus on interdisciplinary teaching and research and on providing experiential learning opportunities for our students.

## VALUES

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The following values guide the way in which faculty, research/teaching associates and instructors, and staff in Political Studies work together and behave towards each other.

**Committed:**

We are committed teachers and scholars who place a high value on learning and understanding, analytical thinking, effective oral and written expression, and our students' development and success.

**Innovative:**

We are committed to research and teaching initiatives that are innovative and integrate research, teaching and learning activities.

**Collaborative:**

We are committed to finding ways that we can collaborate on a broad range of academic endeavours, including teaching, research, and community outreach initiatives within and beyond the Department.

**Relevant and Responsive:**

We believe in the importance of transferring relevant research knowledge to our students, to academic colleagues within and beyond the university, and to members of our local and provincial communities. We also believe in the importance of being responsive to the community in our teaching, research, and contributions to public discourse.

**Respectful:**

We welcome the diverse views and beliefs of our colleagues and students, and place a high value on honesty, integrity and mutual respect in all our professional and personal interactions..

**Supportive:**

Our intent is to be supportive of each other, our staff, and our students. We give high priority to supporting efforts by faculty, staff and students to achieve their academic and professional development in ways that are consonant with the University's mission.

**Accountable:**

We understand that each of us is accountable for our roles in serving the Department, College, University and community.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### KNOWLEDGE CREATION

Creating and transmitting knowledge through the integration of research, teaching and learning, and through community engagement.

#### ***1. Develop connections between our programs, students and community partners and the Social Science Research Laboratories (SSRL).***

**Action Steps**

- (i) provide encouragement to individual faculty members and thematic research teams to use the SSRL infrastructure and technical support to:
  - a. support new and build upon existing, research programs
  - b. to engage community stakeholders from the private, public and third sectors in our research
  - c. enhance grant applications;
- (ii) develop research initiatives that utilize the enhanced research capacity provided by the SSRL and involve research teams composed of faculty, students and university and community partners.;

## ***2. Strengthen faculty research by collaborating with our colleagues within and/or beyond the University.***

### **Action Steps**

- (i) encourage the development of processes that will result in success not only in tri-council grant applications, but also in grant applications to other funders;
- (ii) encourage the development of processes that allow faculty members to collaborate on research projects and contribute to the development and execution of each other's research projects;
- (iii) organize and encourage faculty participation in conferences/workshops/seminars that generate collaborative research and joint publications;
- (iv) ensure that there is a coherence between graduate research in the Department and the scholarly work of individual faculty members;
- (v) ensure that candidates for faculty positions are informed of the College's emphasis on research intensiveness;
- (vi) achieve a reasonable and equitable alignment of teaching, research and administration responsibilities between faculty.

## ***3. Ensure that the results of our knowledge reach audiences beyond the University, and that we share our scholarly findings with the community in an accessible manner.***

### **Action Steps**

- (i) contribute to the shaping of public debate and discourse by encouraging faculty with relevant expertise to undertake various types of initiatives, including, but not limited to the following:
  - a. providing commentary on, and analysis of, major election/political events;
  - b. involving themselves in the work of public/private/third sector commissions, task forces, boards, panels or other forums;
  - c. writing op-ed pieces on topics relevant to their research/teaching strengths;
- (ii) nurture contacts with leaders in the public, private and third sectors and with the media on matters relevant to the public policy agenda;
- (iii) maintain an updated and dynamic Department website that informs the community of our research strengths and interests;
- (iv) extend teaching and research into the policy system and the community through on-line/blended courses, internships (including Career Internships and the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program), and other vehicles of public education;
- (v) encourage faculty to have a presence in relevant academic or related professional organizations.

## ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

Participating actively and visibly in the College's programming innovations for bringing about the best results in Aboriginal student success.

### ***1. Commit to ongoing participation in the new Aboriginal Student Achievement Program (ASAP).***

#### **Action Steps**

- (i.) designate and schedule sections of POLS 111.3 and/or 112.3 as ASAP sections.

### ***2. Assure the Department's involvement in the College's initiatives to extend and integrate Aboriginal research and programming.***

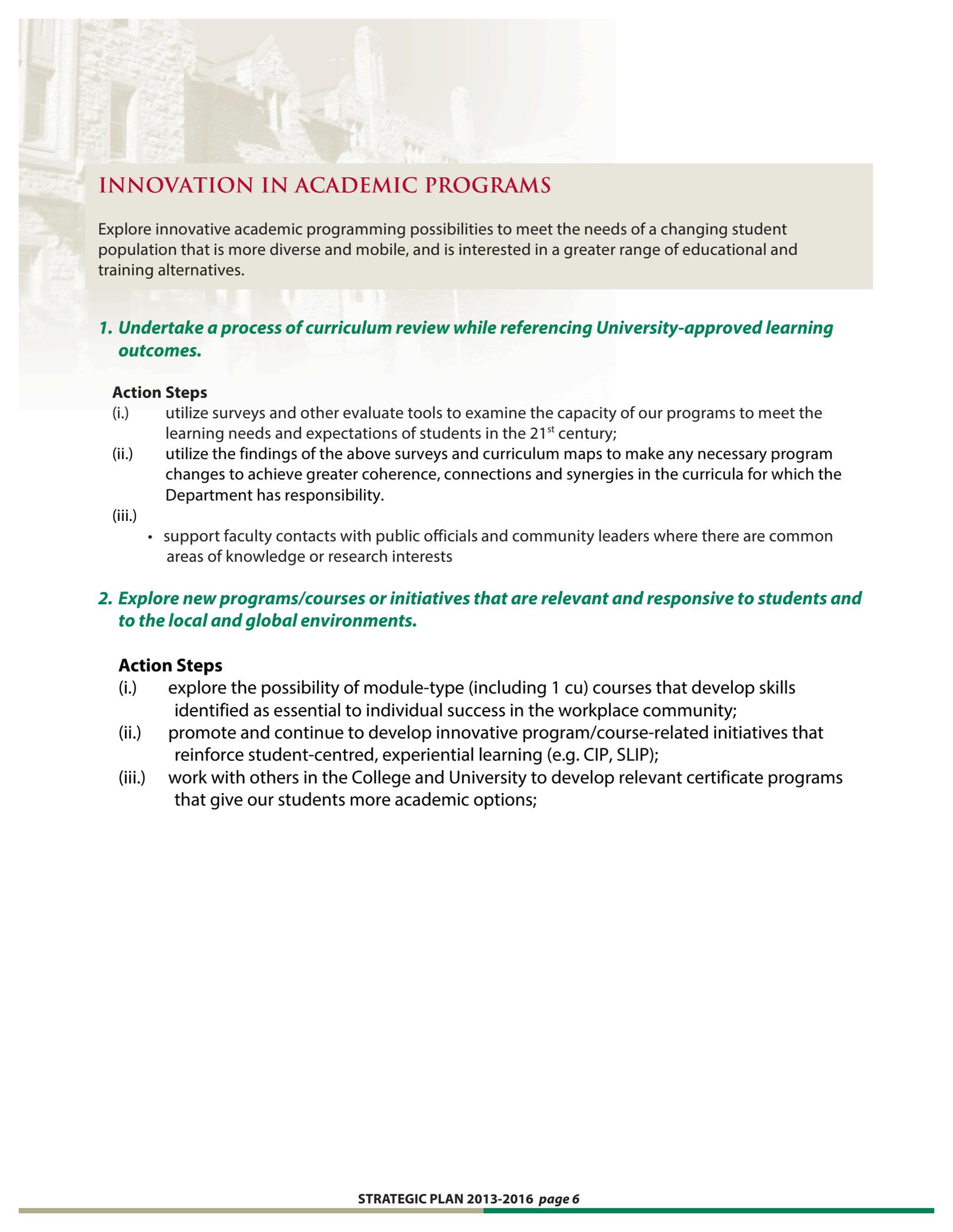
#### **Action Steps**

- (i.) work with the College to secure the required administrative resources to increase community-based experiential learning opportunities for Aboriginal students;
- (ii.) pursue the development of an Aboriginal Public Administration Certificate, and continue to explore the possibility of a new interdisciplinary, inter-College graduate level program on Aboriginal governance and politics.

### ***3. Strengthen the connections between the Department's curriculum and Aboriginal career opportunities in the community.***

#### **Action Steps**

- (i.) continue to build the Aboriginal Public Administration Program (APA) as a vehicle for preparing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students for careers in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, within and outside Aboriginal communities.



## INNOVATION IN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Explore innovative academic programming possibilities to meet the needs of a changing student population that is more diverse and mobile, and is interested in a greater range of educational and training alternatives.

### ***1. Undertake a process of curriculum review while referencing University-approved learning outcomes.***

#### **Action Steps**

- (i.) utilize surveys and other evaluate tools to examine the capacity of our programs to meet the learning needs and expectations of students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- (ii.) utilize the findings of the above surveys and curriculum maps to make any necessary program changes to achieve greater coherence, connections and synergies in the curricula for which the Department has responsibility.
- (iii.)
  - support faculty contacts with public officials and community leaders where there are common areas of knowledge or research interests

### ***2. Explore new programs/courses or initiatives that are relevant and responsive to students and to the local and global environments.***

#### **Action Steps**

- (i.) explore the possibility of module-type (including 1 cu) courses that develop skills identified as essential to individual success in the workplace community;
- (ii.) promote and continue to develop innovative program/course-related initiatives that reinforce student-centred, experiential learning (e.g. CIP, SLIP);
- (iii.) work with others in the College and University to develop relevant certificate programs that give our students more academic options;

## FACULTY RENEWAL AND SUPPORT

Attaining a position where the Department is a competitive destination of choice for political scientists and scholars who are committed to scholarly excellence, relevance and responsiveness.

### ***1. Attract and retain the Department's next generation of scholars in political science, ensuring that there is a fit between recruitment priorities and the Department's strategic goals regarding academic programming, research and scholarship, and community engagement.***

#### **Action Steps**

- (i) ensure that the Department has the faculty cohort that is necessary to deliver a strong core curriculum together with high-quality and innovative interdisciplinary programs;
- (ii) recruit high-quality candidates who are strong on research, scholarship and teaching, and who can build areas of strength and excellence;
- (iii) ensure that faculty recruitment information highlights the research infrastructure and technical support that exists at the University (e.g., SSRL and various research institutes) to enhance faculty's ability to access research funds and to conduct research;
- (iv) ensure that our recruitment efforts proceed within a framework of understanding between ourselves and St. Thomas More College regarding effective coverage of the discipline and required fields;
- (v) ensure that candidates are aware of the department's ongoing commitment to contributing in a substantial way to public debate and discourse;
- (vi) ensure that our recruitment of new faculty gives primacy of importance to the sustaining of a climate and culture of collegiality and the recognition of Departmental values;
- (vii) be proactive in recognizing and honouring achievements of faculty, associates, lecturers and staff;
- (viii) ensure that junior colleagues are mentored by senior faculty through formalized processes that help build confidence, clarify priorities and develop productivity.

### ***2. Ensure that faculty have the staff support that is necessary for building research and teaching capacity and sustaining administrative efficiencies.***

#### **Action Steps**

- (i.) continue to explore possibilities within the College for achievement of administrative arrangements that assist staff with their workload;
- (ii.) utilize wherever possible, research infrastructure and secured research funding to build further administrative/technical support for research and teaching in the Department.