

**Political Science Graduate Student Council Proposal on the Reform of the Methods Minor**

*February 2, 2007*

The Political Science Graduate Student Council wishes to express its concern about the proposed reform to the methods minor, and particularly with regard to the proposed deadline of May 15th of the third year.

Whereas:

- Some students do not make the decision to minor in methods until their second year, and/or do not take POLS 4912 until their second year;
- It is expected that methods papers incorporate methods taught in POLS 4291;
- Students who take POLS 4912 in their second year typically cannot complete the methods sequence until the end of their third year;
- The methods paper should entail original research and methodological skills beyond those acquired in POLS 4291.

The PSGSC requests:

- That the deadline for the methods paper be extended at least until late August, before the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> year;
- That the department make an allowance for individual circumstances by allowing for an extension up to December of the 4<sup>th</sup> year, with approval of the DGS and adviser;
- That the department clarify in writing the level of original methodology expected in the methods paper.