The EPC has completed its discussions of the Politics and History program review and would like to thank you for your participation in the difficult task of re-aligning program reviews with emerging mandates of WASC accreditation processes Woodbury University planning practices. Through your willingness to abide by this process, the EPC has now revised the guidelines for programs that do not have external review processes.

The EPC has approved the Politics and History program review submitted last Fall; we thank you for your patience and anticipate that you understand the delay given our conversations about the complexity of the deliberative nature of revising the existing guidelines. By being able to use your program review as a case study, the EPC has been successful in streamlining its own processes and in ensuring more transparency for future processes of program review. Among the documents and recommendations the EPC is forwarding to the senate for future program reviews are:

- For every program review, the creation of a checklist of standards based on comparable programs at other institutions, with those standards identified by the Chair (based on the Chair’s selection of appropriate benchmark institutions and programs).
- The creation of internal review processes that produce far greater alignment among WASC initiatives, Woodbury University’s ongoing improvement of assessment practices and documents, and the six principles.
- The widening of the audience for program reviews such that both internal and external audiences will find that the documents allow significantly greater transparency in understanding the programs under review.
- The development of a clearer definition of the differences between a “self-study” and a “program review.”
- A tightening of the focus of program reviews; in particular, a stronger focus on the collection of data for, and consequent structuring of, program review documents such that the resource implications of particular programs are far more transparent and document a greater alignment with the resource needs of the university as a whole.
- A re-positioning program review documents to ensure that all of the following are included for consideration:
i) the maximization of University resources

ii) the projection of a program’s growth

iii) a strategic plan for growing the program

iv) the development of a reasonable time-frame for measuring the program’s projected growth

In the Spring of 2009, the EPC recognized the need to make significant changes in the program review processes then in practice at Woodbury University. That work continued well into the Fall of 2009. The Politics and History program review allowed the EPC to examine the gaps between existing and emerging processes.