Questions you can ask on your interviews (from Tracy Osborn)

A) Teaching

1) Is there a lot of interdisciplinary teaching? Esp. with women’s studies and/or psychology?
2) Three/four courses per semester – usually three separate preps or two sections of the same course and one other class?
3) How do class offerings rotate – i.e., how often are certain classes offered, and what would a typical semester consist of (a section of intro and…?)
4) Which classes to be taught are priorities? Which are important to see on the schedule that are not offered now?
5) How often would I have the chance to create my own classes in freshmen and/or senior seminars?
6) Class size?
7) Kinds of students? What are the backgrounds of students when they enter the university? How many new majors start each year and finish the poli sci program?
8) Internships for students? State legislative internships and/or research with faculty members?
9) Classroom styles – what kinds of texts are used, how much group work and discussion vs. lecture style, teaching environment generally?
10) Is there university support for teaching initiatives (e.g. grants for developing new seminars)?
11) What are the advising duties to political science students?
12) What do most students do upon graduating from the college – law school, grad school, political jobs, etc?
13) Interaction between students and faculty generally? Is it positive? How much do faculty participate in campus life apart from student academics?
14) Student curriculum requirements – diversity classes, writing programs (i.e., do they have to write a certain amount in classes), commitment to liberal arts-style education?

B) Research

1) What kind of university support exists for faculty research?
2) Are there semesters with lesser loads for research – how does that work?
3) Do students participate in the research process with faculty?
4) Do faculty collaborate on research projects?
5) Are there research connections with any research centers or other universities in the area?

C) Faculty Life/Department

1) What are the requirements for tenure? Do most people get tenure and stay at the university?
2) Has your experience as a women/young faculty member been positive – why or why not? (ask of appropriate person, of course).
3) How much does this department interact with others on campus? How does the university treat this department?
4) What are faculty administration requirements (faculty meetings, committees, etc.)?
5) What are the major goals for the department in the next 5/10 years? Hiring, teaching, etc.?
6) Social life of department – fun people outside of work?
7) What are benefits like for faculty members? People generally happy with being at the university?
D) Life in the town/state.

1) Good place to live? Where do they live, do they like it, cost of living, experience when they first moved here?
2) University’s connection to the community?