

## **Cyclical Program Review of *the Department of Economics* One Year Progress Report on Implementation Plan**

At the conclusion of the cyclical program review, a final assessment report and implementation plan was agreed by the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), *Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, and the Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies*. These deans are responsible for monitoring the implementation plan.

Please complete the table below to report on progress made in the past year against the implementation plan. Add further explanation if necessary in the *additional notes* section. The table is to be completed by the academic unit and reviewed by the relevant deans/associate deans.

Please complete this report and return it to [quqap@queensu.ca](mailto:quqap@queensu.ca) by July 3, 2018. The Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) will review this progress report and discuss with the Provost. Please note that monitoring reports will be made available to the public on the Provost's Office web site.

## ONE YEAR FOLLOW UP

Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	Please indicate whether the implementation is on target and on time, and provide a brief description.
<p>1. Due to the bottleneck problem in undergraduate honours seminars, reviewers suggest that the Department consider increasing honours seminar class sizes (even from 15 to 20). By their estimation, this move could have significant impact on costs, eliminate the bottleneck, and possibly generate more revenue by allowing more students into the program</p>	<p>Continue work with Department's curriculum committee</p>	<p>Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean, Arts and Science</p>	<p>Summer 2017 with first changes taking effect in September 2018</p>	<p>On target and on time.</p> <p>In 2018-19, the average undergraduate honours seminar class sizes will exceed 20.</p>
<p>2. Since the two undergraduate economic history courses effectively serve as communications courses and place great emphasis on reading and writing, the reviewers recommend converting one of those two courses into an</p>	<p>Continue working with Department's curriculum committee</p>	<p>Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean, Arts and Science</p>	<p>2018-19 academic year</p>	<p>On target and on time.</p> <p>We have not introduced a communications course. However, the list of courses that can be included as part of the writing requirement has been expanded significantly. Students can now choose one history</p>

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	actual communications course.			course and one additional course form this expanded list. This change will take effect in September 2019.	
3.	Reviewers recommend that the Department take efforts to better understand the target employers of students graduating from the MA program, since they are currently not well identified nor understood.	Coordinate data collection from the Graduate Program Outcome Survey (GPOS)	Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies in conjunction with Office of Institutional Research and Planning	Implement poll in 2017-18 academic year	On target and on time.  A formal poll for MA students has been implemented starting at the end of the 2017-18 academic year. In addition, measures will be taken to keep better track of graduating MA students as part of the construction of the new Economics website.
4.	In order to increase the course offerings for PhD students, reviewers recommend that the department make their existing graduate courses “dual” (i.e., both MA and PhD students). While the lecture content could be the	Continue discussions between Department and School of Graduate Studies	Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean Graduate Studies	Ongoing	On target and on time.  The course requirement for second-year PhD students has been increased from 3 to 5 starting in 2017-18. The two additional courses can be drawn from the set of MA electives or the RPRD

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<p>same for both types of students the assessments could be different for MA and PhD students. Reviewers also suggested that the department consider making better use of Weatherall funds to bring in visitors to teach mini-courses.</p>				<p>program. PhD students will be assessed differently from MA students. Weatherall funds are already being used to mount short-courses for PhDs.</p>
<p>5. Reviewers recommend a more even allocation of PhD students across faculty members for supervisory duties, as well as an increase in the size of the faculty. This recommendation considers the facts that those instructors who teach PhD seminar courses take on a greater share of PhD supervisory duties than their colleagues, and that supervising too many</p>	<p>Continue experimenting with ways to increase the number of faculty involved in PhD seminar courses</p>	<p>Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean Graduate Studies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>On target.</p> <p>An even allocation of supervision is always difficult to achieve. However, in 2018-19, we have now increased the number of sections of the PhD workshop (ECON999) from 1 to 3. Each of these is staffed by 2 different faculty, one in each semester. In addition to multiple topics courses, PhD students will interact with many more research</p>

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	graduate students may affect time-to-completion.			faculty which we expect to help equalize the allocation of supervision.	
6.	Reviewers recommend that the department be supported in bringing visiting faculty in to teach core PhD courses if they are unable to staff them internally.	Department head to manage until core faculty complement can be increased	Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean Graduate Studies	Ongoing	On target.  As the process of faculty renewal continues, new and younger faculty are now available to teach PhD core courses. Over the next few years, we don't think this will be a problem.
7.	Reviewers observed that dealing with the numerous and heterogeneous accessibility requests from students in the Department is difficult, logistically, because the Accessibility Office does not bear the full cost of the accessibility decisions it makes. Reviewers recommend that the department work with Queen's in the	Department Head to work with the University to develop a department-wide strategy to respond to growing accessibility needs	Department Head	Ongoing	This is an increasingly problematic situation for the University as a whole. The economics department has taken steps to minimize the impacts of term test and has tried to improve the internal organization of accommodations. We are expecting that new spaces on campus will allow many of these issues to be dealt

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	development of a departmental-wide strategy to respond to growing accessibility needs.				with centrally starting in 2018-19.
8.	According to the Self-Study Report, the Department buildings “are minimally accessible to those with physical disabilities, and there is currently very inadequate wheelchair access to Dunning Hall,” and the only way for these students to reach the upper floors in Dunning Hall is through an old elevator, which allegedly is frequently out of service. Reviewers suggest remedying these issues should be a top priority.	Faculty Office to alert PPS of issues	Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science	Ongoing	No actions have been taken with regard to this. We have not been made aware of any recent major accessibility problems.
9.	Reviewers recommend that the Department be provided with the necessary funds to renovate	Department Head to continue to seek alternative sources of funding	Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean, Arts and Science	Ongoing	The department has made this a priority item in its own fundraising activities

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<p>classroom Dunning 350. The room was once used to teach upper-year econometrics classes, but has become obsolete since class sizes increased; once renovated, the room has the potential to play a key role in the Department's teaching and learning mission.</p>				<p>and those of the Faculty of Arts and Science.</p>
<p>10. Currently, all Commerce students are required to take Econ 110, a first-year economics course offered by the Economics Department. The Reviewers recommend that this current arrangement continues.</p>	<p>Department Head to continue to speak to the Smith School of Business</p>	<p>Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean, Arts and Science</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>No changes have been made since they are not necessary. The Smith school appears to be happy with the current arrangement.</p>

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11.	Reviewers recommend that the Department be given the resources to increase its faculty complement in order to retain its reputation as one of the premier departments in the country.	Faculty Office to continue to assess department's needs	Department Head in conjunction with Associate Dean, Arts and Science	Ongoing	Since the Review, the economics department has hired two new assistant professors (one to start in July 2019) and a joint QNS position with Psychology. However, during that period one assistant professor left and three full professors retired. We expect to hire two more new assistant professors in 2018-19. But more retirements are likely soon.

**Additional Notes:**

Please note any additional issues affecting progress, if necessary.