

Queen's University
Executive Summary of the Review of the Cultural Studies Program

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), the cultural studies program submitted a self-study on September 25, 2015 to the faculty of arts and science, school of graduate studies and the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic) to initiate the cyclical program review of its graduate programs [MA and PhD]. The approved self-study presented program descriptions, learning outcomes, a library report and analyses of data provided by the office of institutional research and planning and the school of graduate studies. Appendices to the self-study contained 15 faculty CVs (chosen from 91 faculty currently affiliated with the program) and the library report.

Three arm's-length reviewers (Diana Brydon, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba; Rinaldo Walcott, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto; and, Jane Errington, Department of History, Queen's University) examined the materials and conducted a site visit on October 29 & 30, 2015. The site visit included interviews with the deputy provost, associate dean from the school of graduate studies, dean, vice-dean, associate deans of arts and science and meetings with graduate students, librarian, staff and faculty. The site visit also included tours of the Agnes Etherington art centre and the Isabel Bader centre for the performing arts.

In their report (November 18, 2015), the review team provided feedback that describes how the cultural studies program meets the QUQAP evaluation criteria and are consistent with the university's mission and academic priorities. The review team noted that the very real strength of the program is its interdisciplinarity which provides the foundation of students' rich learning experiences. The reviewers also noted that the cultural studies program is perhaps one of the most culturally diverse programs at Queen's, with respect to both the faculty and students.

The review team did recommend an audit of those courses where students may study black, ethnic, critical race, decolonial, postcolonial, or indigenous studies and other courses of related interest, and that efforts be taken to make their availability more visible to students.

Based on all of the above documentation, a *Final Assessment Report* and an *Implementation Plan* were prepared by the vice-provost (teaching and learning) and approved by the provost (June 1, 2016).

The academic programs in the cultural studies program have been approved to continue and are scheduled for their next review in eight years (2023-2024).

Prepared by the vice-provost (teaching and learning)

June 27, 2016

Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan for the Cyclical Program Review of the Cultural Studies Program

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation and the internal response and assessments of the graduate programs [MA and PhD] delivered by the cultural studies program. This report identifies the significant strengths of the programs, together with opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and it sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

The report includes an implementation plan that identifies who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the final assessment report; who will be responsible for providing any resources entailed by those recommendations; any changes in organization, policy or governance that will be necessary to meet the recommendations; who will be responsible for acting on those recommendations; and, timelines for acting on and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.

Summary of the Cyclical Program Review of the Academic Programs in the Cultural Studies Program

The cultural studies program submitted a self-study to the faculty of arts and science, school of graduate studies and the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic) on September 25, 2015. The self-study presented the program descriptions and learning outcomes, an analytical assessment of the academic programs, and program data including the data collected by the office of institutional research and planning and the school of graduate studies. Appendices to the self-study contained 15 faculty CVs (chosen from 91 faculty currently affiliated with the program) and the library report.

Two arm's-length external reviewers (Diana Brydon, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba and Rinaldo Walcott, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto) and one arm's-length internal reviewer (Jane Errington, Department of History, Queen's University) were selected by the vice-provost (teaching and learning) in consultation with the deans of arts and science and the school of graduate studies, from nominations submitted by the Cultural Studies Program. The review team evaluated the self-study documentation and then conducted a site visit to Queen's on October 29 and 30, 2015. The site visit included interviews with the deputy provost, associate dean school of graduate studies, dean, vice-dean, associate deans of arts and science and meetings with graduate students, librarian, staff and faculty. The site visit also included tours of the Agnes Etherington art centre and the Isabel Bader centre for the performing arts.

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The acting director, after consultation with faculty and staff in the program, submitted a response to the review team report (December 13, 2015). The associate dean of arts and science (January 4, 2016) and the dean of the school of graduate studies (December 17, 2015) also submitted their response to the provost's office. Specific recommendations were discussed, and clarifications and corrections presented.

Subsequent to receipt of the review team report and the internal responses from the faculty and the dean of graduate studies, the senate cyclical program review committee (SCPRC) dedicated its meeting of January 12, 2016 to this particular discussion.

The SCPRC would like to recognize the following strengths of the Cultural Studies Program:

- Offering outstanding, innovative, exciting and motivating interdisciplinary programs that provide a strong foundation for a rich student learning experience and a strong foundation for exceptional teaching and scholarship;
- Strong commitment and leadership in the areas of social justice, equity, diversity and inclusiveness;
- Distinctive administration structure (the Steering Committee) which is inclusive in terms of membership and transparent in terms of decision-making;
- Delivering an enriched student learning experience which provides many options for students including: cultural production; community practica; and, an active speaker series for both MA and PhD candidates;
- Optimizing Library resources to develop strong collaborations and integrate information literacy into the fabric of the program;
- Impressive management of significant growth since 2009 both in student cohort and affiliated faculty while at the same time maintaining good times to completion.

The SCPRC identified the following opportunities for enhancement. The faculty is encouraged to continue to explore:

- Different models/frameworks for PhD supervision and dissertation with the aim of enhancing the program and addressing student needs;
- Ways to support supervisory mentorship that will help faculty to better navigate and advise students about the steps needed for completion of their degrees;
- Policies regarding formalizing how faculty become affiliated with the program;
- New opportunities to deepen the program's commitment to community-based research by increasing the openings available to students for internships, collaborations and

partnering with external organizations at the local, national and international levels without jeopardizing times-to-completion.

Summary of the Reviewer's Recommendations with the Program's Responses

Affiliates of the Program

The review team recommended that the steering committee reconsider how faculty are accepted and listed as affiliates and establish a more formal application process with more details about the anticipated contributions to be made and with a set time period for participation subject to periodic review and possible renewal.

The cultural studies program responded that clarification of the affiliation process is underway, as they are now asking persons who express interest about what sort of service they might envision for themselves and how they image their role(s). The response went on to say that this will be the first step towards a clarification of process and commitment level.

Graduate Supervision

The review team recommended that the program consider means of ensuring that affiliate supervisors are familiar with the basis procedures of the program and are provided with sufficient support for taking on these duties.

The cultural studies program noted that it will focus on the review team's suggestions concerning supervision, mentorships, more regular group contact activities involving all committee members, and student concerns surrounding supervisions.

Implementation Plan:

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
<p>1. that cultural studies complete its audit of critical race studies, black studies, de-colonizing strategies and other areas of related interest with a view to improving curriculum by integrating key concerns into syllabi, into the program's public mandate and into everyday practices at steering committee and in the community. To avoid unnecessary duplication, ensure course offerings in other units are available to cultural studies students.</p>	<p>Steering committee initiate audit</p>	<p>Steering committee, program director and associate dean(s) in arts and science and school of graduate studies</p>	<p>Deans of faculty of arts and science and school of graduate studies' report to the vice-provost (teaching and learning) September 1, 2017</p>
<p>2. that cultural studies continue to advocate at the faculty and provost levels the need to recognize faculty effort and provide credit to faculty members for their contributions to both their</p>	<p>Initiate discussions with relevant associate dean and cultural studies' steering committee</p>	<p>Steering committee, program director and deans of faculty of arts and science and the school of graduate studies</p>	<p>Deans faculty of arts and science and school of graduate studies' report to the vice-provost (teaching and learning) September 1, 2017</p>

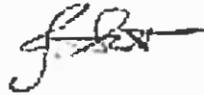
home units and the cultural studies programs in annual and merit reviews, promotion and tenure decisions and acknowledgement in departmental workloads.			
3. that the dean of arts and science's office ensures the program adequately understands the new budget model as it relates to resource management and development of tactics to enhance the program's strategic planning and advancement.	Initiate discussions with relevant associate dean and cultural studies' steering committee	Deans faculty of arts and science	Deans of faculty of arts and science's report to the vice-provost (teaching and learning) September 1, 2017

The deans of arts and science and school of graduate studies shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation plan. The details of progress made will be presented in writing to the vice-provost (teaching and learning) and filed in the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic). Monitoring reports will be posted on the university web site.

Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

June 29, 2016
Approval Date

Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)



Signature

Dean, Arts and Science



Signature

Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies



Signature

**Final status of academic programs in the
Cultural Studies Program**

Approved to Continue

Date of next program review

2023/2024 Academic year