

**Queen's University**  
**Executive Summary of the Review of the Academic Programs in the Department of Art History and Art Conservation**

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), the Department of Art History and Art Conservation submitted a self-study on September 25, 2014 to the School of Graduate Studies and the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) to initiate the cyclical program review of its undergraduate and graduate programs. The approved self-study presented program descriptions, learning outcomes, 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 CVs for each full-time member in the Department of Art History and Art Conservation and the library report.

Four arm's-length reviewers (Dr. Julie Codell, Professor, School of Art, University of Arizona; Dr. Oliver Botar, Professor, School of Art, University of Manitoba; Professor Michele D. Marincola, Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; and Dr. Glenn Willmott, Department of English, Queen's University) examined the materials and conducted a site visit on November 3-4, 2014. The site visit included interviews with the vice-provost (teaching and learning), vice-provost and dean and associate dean graduate studies, dean and vice-dean faculty of arts and science and meetings with undergraduate students, graduate students, cognate heads, staff and faculty.

In their report (November 23, 2014), the review team provided feedback that describes how the Department of Art History and Art Conservation's programs meet the QUQAP evaluation criteria and are consistent with the university's mission and academic priorities. The review team noted that Department of Art History and Art Conservation was committed to providing a rich and valuable student learning experience. In particular, the review team noted that overall students were happy with their programs which is reflected in low attrition rates and strong times to completion.

The review team did report on a number of challenges including: the lack of international students enrolled in the Art History and Art Conservation programs; the lack of tenured professors in the Art Conservation program; and, students' concerns about inadequate supervision and mentoring in the Art History graduate programs.

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 (April 10, 2015).

The academic programs in the Department of Art History and Art Conservation have been approved to continue and are scheduled for their next review in eight years (2021-2022)

Prepared by the vice-provost (teaching and learning)

April 6, 2015

## **Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan for the Cyclical Program Review of the Academic Programs in the Department of Art History and Art Conservation**

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 undergraduate and graduate programs delivered by the Department of Art History and Art Conservation. 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 Department of Art History and Art Conservation**

The Department of Art History and Art Conservation submitted a self-study to the School of Graduate Studies and the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) on September 25, 2014. 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. Appended to the self-study were a number of documents including CVs for each member of Department of Art History and Art Conservation and the library report.

Three arm's-length external reviewers (Dr. Julie Codell, Professor, School of Art, University of Arizona; Dr. Oliver Botar, Professor, School of Art, University of Manitoba; and, Professor Michele D. Marincola, Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University) and one arm's-length internal reviewer (Dr. Glenn Willmott, Department of English, Queen's University) were selected by the vice-provost (teaching and learning) in consultation with the dean of the School of Graduate Studies, from nominations submitted by Department of Art History and Art Conservation. The review team evaluated the self-study documentation and then conducted a site visit to Queen's on November 3-4, 2014. The site visit included interviews with the vice-provost (teaching and learning), the vice-provost and dean and associate dean graduate studies, the dean and vice-dean faculty of arts and science and meetings with undergraduate students, graduate students, cognate heads, staff and faculty.

In their report (November 23, 2014), the review team provided feedback that describes how the Department of Art History and Art Conservation's programs meet the QUQAP evaluation criteria and are consistent with the university's mission and academic priorities. The review team noted that the Department of Art History and Art Conservation was committed to providing a rich and valuable student learning experience. In particular, the review team noted that overall students were happy with their programs which is reflected in low attrition rates and strong times to completion.

The review team did report on a number of challenges including: the lack of international students enrolled in the Art History and Art Conservation programs; the lack of tenured professors in the Art Conservation program; and, students' concerns about inadequate supervision and mentoring in the Art History graduate programs.

The head, after consultation with faculty and staff in the department, submitted a response to the review team report (December 2, 2014). The vice-dean of arts and science (January 9, 2015) and the dean of the school of graduate studies (December 15, 2014) 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 school and the dean of graduate studies, the senate cyclical program review committee (SCPRC) dedicated its meeting of February 9, 2015 to this particular discussion.

The SCPRC would like to recognize the following strengths of the Department of Art History and Art Conservation:

- High quality faculty with excellent research programs, publication records, funding and supervisory skills;
- High quality students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- Fostering a strong relationship with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre including the joint Queen's National Scholar position in Indigenous Art and Material Cultures of the Americas;
- Offering multiple opportunities for experiential learning including summer courses in Venice and internships that foster the development of professional and transferable skills;
- Successful expansion of the Art History program from traditional areas of strength in European Art History to include streams on Central and South American, Aboriginal and Canadian Art History;
- Preparing Masters' students for both doctoral study and non-academic careers;
- Innovative pathways for Master of Art Conservation graduates to enter the PhD program in Art History.

The SCPRC would like to identify the following opportunities for enhancement. The department is encouraged to continue to explore:

- In consultation with Continuing and Distance Studies, development of online courses that have proven societal need and market demand;
- Continue to expand courses that reflect newer directions such as social history, sexuality and gender, and post-colonial points of view;
- Methods of gathering information on the effectiveness of the experiential learning opportunities offered;
- Opportunities for revenue-generation through new program development and advancement efforts.

### **Summary of the Reviewer's Recommendations with the Deans' Responses**

#### **Introduction of new area of study**

The review team noted that the Art History program would do well to maintain its existing strengths, rather than introducing entirely new areas of study (such as Asian art) for which there are insufficient library and other resources.

*The Department of Art History and Art Conservation responded that it did not agree with the review team's negative attitude towards the hiring of an Asian art specialist. The department noted the current demographic nature of Canadian society and particularly the population of the GTA, with 48% new Canadians, many whom come from parts of Asia. The department's plan would be to hire one faculty member with expertise in Asian art, build up the library resources gradually and take advantage of synergies that already exist in cognate departments such as history and languages, literatures and cultures.*

*The vice-dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science responded to the review team's views with respect to the hiring of an Asian or a South Asian specialist. He noted that the desire to add such a specialist is reflective of the department's priority to internationalize (and Indigenize) the Art History curriculum. The response went on to say that the Faculty of Arts and Science supported this initiative.*

#### **Workload of new QNS position**

The review team expressed concern that the new Queen's National Scholar (whose position is joint between the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the Department of Art History and Art Conservation) can find a balance between his duties at the two institutions that does not jeopardize his research time.

*The head of the Department of Art History and Art Conservation replied that the programme will remain vigilant with regard to the workload of the new QNS shared with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.*

*The vice-dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science recognized the ongoing work in the Department to develop synergies across programs in teaching and research. He highlighted the collaborative theme of the joint QNS position in Indigenous Art and Material Culture of the Americas, which is breaking new ground in working across institutional frameworks. The response went on to say that the faculty recognizes the workload challenges around such a hybrid appointment, and continues to work with the department and the Art Centre to facilitate an equitable and effective distribution of workload contributions.*

### **Enhancing the Art Conservation program**

The review team noted that the Master of Art Conservation program is the only graduate program of its kind in Canada and provides a necessary and essential service to the country. It also noted that the program is at a critical moment because three-quarters of its long-serving faculty will have retired between June 2013 and 2015. The review team was optimistic that this juncture in time provides opportunities to make changes that will bring the curriculum more in line with current and future job opportunities and encourage collaboration with the technical art history faculty and the Agnes Etherington Art Centre to create a unique program in object-based technical study.

*The head of the department responded that an Advisory Committee will meet in the spring to take part in a curriculum review of the Master of Art Conservation program. As suggested by the review team, external reviewers from leading institutions and academic programs will participate in the curriculum review.*

*The vice-dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science responded that sustaining this unique and prestigious program was a priority for the Faculty and the University. The Faculty will continue to work with the Department to facilitate the development of curricular innovations that reflect current directions (e.g. digital conservation formats) in the field.*

*The vice-provost and dean of the School of Graduate Studies noted that the SGS has been involved in the discussions underway about enhancing the Art Conservation program. The Spring Retreat 2015 was noted as an opportunity to consult about some of the proposed curricular revisions and plans with a view to implementing initial changes in 2015-16.*

### Implementation Plan:

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
A complete curriculum review of all programs in the Department of Art History and Art Conservation should be undertaken in consultation with the Centre for Teaching and Learning. The aim of the review should be to determine that the Program Learning Outcomes are aligned with the Degree Level Expectations. Input should be sought from both current and past students to determine what transferrable skills they will need to be successful in their chosen professions and career paths.	A curriculum mapping of all courses to DLEs, LOs and other indicators of achievement  Polling of current and past students	Head, Department of Art History and Art Conservation	Dean of Arts and Science' <i>annual report</i> to the provost 2016  Vice-provost and dean, graduate studies' <i>annual report</i> to the provost 2016
The Department should explore to the fullest, opportunities to develop curricular innovations in the Master of Art Conservation program that reflect current directions in the field, e.g. greater	Spring Retreat 2015	Head, Department of Art History and Art Conservation	Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies <i>annual report</i> to the provost 2016

integration of Art Conservation with technical art history.			
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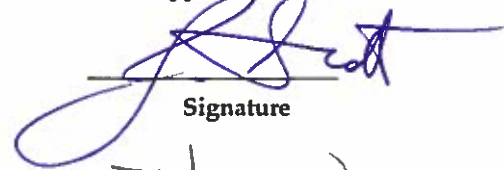
The dean of Arts and Science and the vice-provost and dean, Graduate Studies, shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation plan. The details of progress made will be presented in the deans' annual reports and filed in the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic). Monitoring reports will be posted on the university web site.

**Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan**

20 April 2015

Approval Date

**Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)**



Signature

**Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science**



Signature

**Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies**



Signature

**Final status of academic programs in the  
Department of Art History and Art Conservation**

**Approved to Continue**

**Date of next program review**

**2021/2022 Academic year**

