

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

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), the Jewish Studies program submitted a self-study on November 25, 2015 to the faculty of arts and science and the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic) to initiate the cyclical program review of its undergraduate program. As noted by the review team, the self-study form was incomplete as it was missing key statistics such as enrolment numbers and student satisfaction information. Appendices to the self-study contained CVs of the core faculty in the Jewish Studies program as well as some course syllabi.

Two arm's-length reviewers (Gershon Hundert, Professor of History and Jewish Studies, McGill University and Cathleen Hoeniger, Professor, Department of Art History and Art Conservation, Queen's University) examined the materials and conducted a site visit on February 22, 2016. The site visit included interviews with the vice-provost (teaching and learning), dean and vice-dean of arts and science, chair of the department of history, program director and meetings with cognate heads, undergraduate students and faculty.

In their report (February 25, 2016), the review team provided feedback and recommendations. Based on the documentation, a *Final Assessment Report* and an *Implementation Plan* were prepared by the vice-provost (teaching and learning) and approved by the provost (July 5, 2016). The Jewish Studies program has been approved to continue and is scheduled for its 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 Jewish 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 Jewish Studies program [BA minor]. 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 Jewish Studies Program

The Jewish Studies program submitted a self-study to the faculty of arts and science and the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic) on November 25, 2015. The self-study document was incomplete as it was missing key statistics such as enrolment numbers, student satisfaction information, listing of course offerings, and information about the budget and various endowments supporting the program. Appendices to the self-study did contain CVs of the core faculty in the Jewish Studies program as well as some course syllabi.

One arm's-length external reviewers (Gershon Hundert, Professor of History and Jewish Studies, McGill University) and one arm's-length internal reviewer (Cathleen Hoeniger, Professor, Department of Art History and Art Conservation, Queen's University) were selected by the vice-provost (teaching and learning) in consultation with the deans of arts and science, from nominations submitted by the department of history. The review team evaluated the self-study documentation and then conducted a site visit to Queen's on February 22, 2016. The site visit included interviews with the vice-provost (teaching and learning), dean and vice-dean of arts and science and meetings with the chair of the department of history, the program director, cognate heads, undergraduate students and faculty.

In their report (February 25, 2016), the review team provided feedback that describes how the Jewish Studies program aligns with the university's mission and academic priorities. The report also made a number of observations and recommendations.

The chair of the department of history, submitted a response to the review team report (March 11, 2016). The associate dean of arts and science (April 11, 2016) also submitted her 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 arts and science and the chair of the department of history, the senate cyclical program review committee (SCPRC) dedicated its meeting of April 12, 2016 to this particular discussion.

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

- Providing students with learning opportunities that emphasis dialogue and contemporary debate;
- Vibrant lecture series;
- The initiation of a postdoctoral fellow;
- Continuing community support.

The SCPRC identified the following opportunities for enhancement. The Jewish Studies Program is encouraged to continue to explore:

- Adding a second postdoctoral fellowship in Jewish Studies;
- Engaging faculty members in the Humanities and other disciplines to enliven the program;
- Publicizing the Jewish Studies program with the aim of increasing student enrolment in the B.A. General (or minor concentration) as well as retaining current students.

Summary of Comments/Recommendations

Undergraduate Program

In the self-study document, the director of the Jewish Studies program recommends that the focus of the program undergoes a shift to either Jewish History or to Jewish-Muslim studies, and that the Jewish Studies minor be discontinued.

The review team recommended maintaining the B.A. General (or minor concentration) in its current state and buttressing the current minor with meaningful tenure-track hiring in other departments.

The chair of the department of history responded that given the competitive aspects of the new budget model and the current lack of support for the Jewish Studies program in other departments, (which suggests that other departments will not hire in the area of Jewish Studies) Queen's is left with a patchwork program that the director does not support. The chair went on to say that he does not see how the program can continue in such circumstances. Other factors that contribute to his conclusion that the program is untenable are the current low enrolments – 4 students – and the fact that the program relies upon fixed-term postdoctoral and term adjunct appointments to sustain its core teaching mandate.

The associate dean of arts and science responded that the best course may be for the director, together with members of the department of history and other stakeholders, to investigate alternative credential pathways that will continue to support the teaching and scholarship in Jewish Studies.

Hebrew Language Requirement

The review team noted that a one-year language requirement in a Minor program is likely a deterrent to students with an interest in Jewish Studies who do not want to study Hebrew. The review team recommended that the language study should be an option and not a requirement of the Program.

The chair of the department of history noted that on the one hand, perhaps the language requirement is keeping students away from the B.A. General (minor concentration). Perhaps too the language competency in Hebrew of a person who has taken 6.0 credits is insufficient to warrant the inclusion of such a requirement. The response went on to say that on the other hand when studying a religious tradition and a world culture it makes sense for such students to have some competency no matter how small, in the original language of that faith and culture.

Implementation Plan:

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
<p>1. Establish a steering committee that is inclusive and interdisciplinary in its membership and is transparent in terms of its decision-making. As part of its deliberations, the steering committee should conduct an environmental scan of Jewish Studies programs at the national level and consider alternative credential pathways for Jewish Studies;</p>	<p>Initiate discussions with director of Jewish Studies, chair department of history, associate dean and heads of cognate units</p>	<p>Director of Jewish Studies, chair department of history and associate dean, faculty of arts and science</p>	<p>Deans of faculty of arts and science's report to the vice-provost (teaching and learning) September 1, 2017</p>
<p>2. Undertake a complete curriculum review, in consultation with the Centre for Teaching and Learning, with the aim of identifying additional courses that could be included in the program. The review should include consideration of Hebrew language courses remaining a requirement for the minor concentration.</p>	<p>A curriculum mapping of all courses to DLE's, LOs and other indicators of achievement</p>	<p>Director of Jewish Studies, chair, department of history and associate dean, faculty of arts and science</p>	<p>Deans of faculty of arts and science's report to the vice-provost (teaching and learning) September 1, 2017</p>

The dean of arts and science 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

Final status of the Jewish Studies Program

Approved to Continue

Date of next program review

2023/2024 Academic year