

Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan for the Cyclical Program Review of the Academic Programs in the Department of French Studies

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 and undergraduate programs delivered by the Department of French Studies. 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 French Studies

The Department of French Studies submitted a self-study to the Faculty of Arts and Science, the School of Graduate Studies and the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) on September 19, 2013. 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 the Department of French Studies and the Library Report.

Three arm's-length external reviewers (Dr. Laurent Dubreuil, Director French Studies, Cornell University; Dr. Marilyn Randall, Professor, Western University; Dr. Tracy Ware, Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, Queen's University) were selected by the Deputy Provost in consultation with the Deans of Arts and Science and the School of Graduate Studies, from nominations submitted by the Department of French Studies. The Review Team evaluated the self-study documentation and then conducted a site visit to Queen's on October 3-4, 2013. The site-visit included interviews with the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Vice-Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Arts and Science, Associate Deans and meetings with undergraduate students, graduate students, librarians, cognate heads, staff and faculty.

In their report (October 28, 2013), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the Department of French Studies programs meet the QUQAP evaluation criteria and are consistent with the University's mission and academic priorities. The Review Team noted the dedicated support staff and the extensive library holdings complimented by an excellent francophone liaison librarian. The Review Team report addressed a number of challenges, including the shrinking faculty complement which has resulted in a reduction of capacity for the Department to offer some of its most popular areas of specialization and the temporary suspension of graduate programs. The Review Team remarked that in spite of these major trials the

Department of French Studies was well placed to rise to the challenge, given the energy, commitment and talents of its members, directed by the current Head.

The Head of the Department of French Studies, after consultation with faculty and staff in the Unit, submitted a response to the Review Team Report (November 15, 2013). The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (December 16, 2013) and the Associate Dean of Arts and Science (January 19, 2014) also submitted their responses to the Office of the Provost. Specific recommendations were discussed, and clarifications and corrections were presented.

Subsequent to receipt of the Review Team Report and the internal responses from the Department of French Studies, the Associate Dean of Arts and Science and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, the Senate Cyclical Program Review Committee (SCPRC) dedicated its meetings of February 4 and March 4, 2014 to this particular discussion.

The SCPRC would like to recognize the following strengths:

- Increased on-line language offerings and streamlining of undergraduate language and literature offerings;
- Development of resources and revenue activities at the Francophone Centre;
- Exploring opportunities to reinvigorate French Studies' graduate program;
- Strong track record of doctoral students winning external funding and obtaining employment after graduation in both academic and non-academic positions

The SCPRC encourages the Department of French Studies to continue to:

- Explore all options to achieve a sustainable future including the possibility of a partnership with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures;
- Explore the viability of creating a niche programme in professional French and a large "culture course" taught in English;
- Reassess the role of Linguistics within the Department;
- Re-examine the role of service teaching within the Unit

Summary of the Reviewer's Recommendations with the Department's and Deans' Responses

Graduate Program

1. The Review Team recommends that graduate admission be re-opened by revamping the MA program to a one-year degree. They also suggested the option of direct entry or promotion of MA students into the PhD program.

The Department responded that it plans to explore a number of innovative possibilities for its graduate programs once revisions to the undergraduate program have been further established.

The Vice-Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies responded that the SGS would support such an initiative as it is consistent with most language programs offered elsewhere. The response from the SGS also noted that current graduate regulations would allow for either route to the PhD, i.e. direct entry or to promote MA students into the PhD program.

Undergraduate Program

1. The Review Team urged the Department to reassess the role of linguistics within the Unit.

The Department responded that one initiative that is being explored is the merger of the FREN Linguistics program with the Languages, Literatures and Cultures Linguistics program. The Department of French Studies recognizes that at present there is overlap and duplication of resources. Consideration is being given by the two departments to share resources through a potential joint appoint and a new hire which would in turn bolster the literature programs.

The Faculty of Arts and Science responded that it supports the idea of French Studies working with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures to build a strong joint major in Linguistics.

Structure

1. The Review Team recommends that rather than trying a merger with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, the Department of French Studies should create a new 2-year "business plan" to show the viability of the current departmental structure.

The Department responded that it has engaged in preparing a "business plan" with clear goals that will include an outline of program restructuring and reforms, money generating initiatives and interdepartmental collaborations which they feel confident can be implemented over the course of the next 2 years.

The Faculty of Arts and Science responded that although the FAS is more optimistic about the benefits of a possible merge with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, it concurs with the Reviewers that the best way forward is to develop a "business plan" over the next 2 years, with clear goals being articulated by both the FAS and the Department of French Studies.

The Vice-Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies responded that the School of Graduate Studies supports this option as it will be critical to assess the demand and market needs for graduate programs offered by the Department of French Studies.

Implementation Plan:

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
1. As identified in the Review Team Report and acknowledged in all three internal responses, the SCPRC recommends the development of a "business plan" over the next two (2) years. The business plan must	Preparation of a "business plan" that clearly articulates the Department and the Faculty of	Department Head, Associate Dean Arts and Science and Associate Dean School of Graduate Studies	Dean of Arts and Sciences' <i>Annual Report</i> to the Provost 2015 Dean of the School

include clearly articulated goals and an implementation strategy. Drafting of the business plan must be a collaborative exercise between the Department, the Faculty of Arts and Science, and, the School of Graduate Studies.	Arts and Science and the School of Graduate Studies' goals and priorities. The "plan" must be operational and strategic		of Graduate Studies' <i>Annual Report</i> to the Provost 2015
2. The SCPRC recommends that the Department of French Studies, in conjunction with the Centre for Teaching and Learning, complete a curriculum review of all its course offerings.	A curriculum mapping of all courses to DLEs, LOs and other indicators of achievement	Associate Dean Arts and Science, Associate Dean School of Graduate Studies, Head and all Faculty Members in Department and an Educational Developer from the Centre for Teaching and Learning	Dean of Arts and Sciences' <i>Annual Report</i> to the Provost 2015 Dean of the School of Graduate Studies' <i>Annual Report</i> to the Provost 2015

The Deans of Arts and Sciences and School of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Department Head 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

6 May 2014
Approval Date

Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)

Signature

Dean, Arts and Science

Signature

Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Signature

Final status of academic programs in the Department of French Studies

Approved to Continue

Date of next program review

2020/2021 Academic year

Queen's University
Executive Summary of the Review of the Academic Programs in the Department of French Studies

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), the Department of French Studies submitted a self-study in September 2013 to the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), the Dean of Arts and Science and the School of Graduate Studies to initiate the cyclical program review of its undergraduate and graduate programs. 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 CVs for each full-time member in the Department of French Studies.

Three arm's-length reviewers (Dr. Laurent Dubreuil, Director French Studies, Cornell University; Dr. Marilyn Randall, Professor, Western University; Dr. Tracy Ware, Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, Queen's University) examined the materials and conducted a site visit on October 3-4, 2013. The site-visit included interviews with the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), Vice-Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts and Science, Associate Deans and meetings with undergraduate students, graduate students, librarians, cognate heads, staff and faculty.

In their report (October 28, 2013), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the Department's programs meet the QUQAP evaluation criteria and are consistent with the University's mission and academic priorities. The Review Team noted the dedicated support staff and the extensive library holdings complimented by an excellent francophone liaison librarian. The Review Team report addressed a number of challenges, including the shrinking faculty complement which has resulted in a reduction of capacity for the Department to offer some of its most popular areas of specialization and the temporary suspension of graduate programs. The Review Team remarked that in spite of these major trials the Department of French Studies was well placed to rise to the challenge, given the energy, commitment and talents of its members, directed by the current Head.

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 (May 1, 2014).

The undergraduate academic programs in the Department of French Studies have been approved to continue and are scheduled for their next review in 2020-2021.

Prepared by the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)
April 29, 2014

