Queen’s University

Executive Summary of the Review of the Academic Programs in the Department of Classics

In accordance with Queen’s University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), the Department of Classics submitted a self-study in August 2012 to the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) and the Dean of Arts & Science to initiate the cyclical program review of its BA and MA programs. The approved self-study presented program descriptions, learning outcomes, library report and analyses of data provided by the Office of Institutional Planning and the School of Graduate Studies. Appendices to the self-study contained CVs for each full-time member in the Department.

Three arm’s-length external reviewers (Dr. Helena Fracchia, Professor and Director, University of Alberta School in Italy, Dr. Naomi Norman, Associate Professor and Head, University of Georgia and Dr. Janice Helland, Professor and Head, Department of Art) examined the materials and conducted a site visit on September 27 & 28, 2012. 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 & Science, Associate Deans in Arts & Science and the School of Graduate Studies, and meetings with undergraduate students, graduate students, librarians, cognate heads, staff and faculty.

In their report (October 2, 2012), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the Classic 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 Classics was respected and esteemed by faculty and students alike across the campus. The dedication of the faculty and the dedication of the students were commendable and the Department was praised for its congenial atmosphere. The Review Team did report on a number of challenges including: lack of clear articulation of the Departmental vision and how it might intersect with or complement the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Queen’s University Academic Plan; concerns about the Department’s capacity to deliver a curriculum that fulfills the DLEs; the large number of courses offered; and the unsustainable student-faculty ratio, particularly in 100-level and 200-level courses. The Review Team made a number of recommendations to guide the Department to strengthen its academic offerings. In particular, the Reviewers strongly recommended a full curriculum review of all academic programs offered by the Department of Classics to create a comprehensive and cohesive curriculum plan that ensures all decisions made about course offerings, class size and modes of delivery are grounded in best practices in teaching and learning.

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 (January 28, 2014).

The programs have been approved to continue and is scheduled for its next review in eight years (2018-2019)
Prepared by the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)
February 3, 2014