In accordance with Queen’s University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), the Department of English Language and Literature submitted a self-study in January 2013 to the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), the Dean of Arts and Science and the Dean of 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 Planning and the School of Graduate Studies. Appendices to the self-study contained CVs for each full-time member in the Department of English Language and Literature.

Three arm’s-length external reviewers (Dr. Brian Corman, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Education, University of Toronto; Dr. Mary O’Connor, Professor, Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University; and, Dr. David Parker, Associate Professor, Department of History) examined the materials and conducted a site visit on February 14 & 15, 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 and meetings with undergraduate students, graduate students, librarians, cognate heads, staff and faculty.

In their report (March 2013), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the Department of English Language and Literature 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 English Language and Literature was a very strong department with good teaching scores and an excellent research record both in terms of external funding and peer-reviewed publications. The Review Team also highlighted that its students were engaged and praised the commitment of their professors and the programs that they offer.

The Review Team did report on a number of challenges, including the need for: a departmental Constitution or By-laws; more formal mentorship of junior faculty; monitoring the workload some professors assume with regard to numbers of graduate supervision more help at the university level around mental health, career counseling and academic counseling; relief of congestion in the general office; reorganization of MA student office space; revitalizing a collegial atmosphere within the department; and balancing future appointments with retirements.

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 (March 6, 2014).

The academic programs in the Department of English Language and Literature have been approved to continue and are scheduled for their next review in 2020-2021.

Prepared by the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)
April 21, 2014