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