



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 6, 2017
To: Ms. Barbara Eccles, Secretary of Senate
From: Dr. Wayne Melville, Chair, Senate Academic Committee
Subject: Senate Academic Committee Report

The Senate Academic Committee (SAC) met on March 29, 2017.

1. SAC Quality Assurance (QA) Sub-Committee

- 1.1 SAC passed a motion to approve SAC-QA's calendar change recommendations and forward these requests to the next appropriate committee:
- Program-Major Mod-UG-Computer Science-New Specialization (2016-SCI-5980)
 - Certificate – Writing (2016-SOC-6015)
 - Programs – Special Modification – UG/Grad – Engineering/Business - creation of BEng/MBA programs (2017-ENG-6111)
 - Programs – Modification – Grad – PhD Engineering (2017-ENG-6112)
 - College Pathway from Georgian College to HBASc ENSU Ecosystem Management (2017-SCI-6150 – previously combined with 2016-SCI-6048)
 - Concentration/Specialization-New-GR-Health Sciences (2017-HBS-6078)
 - New Double Major Honours Political Science and Women's Studies (2017-SOC-6085)
- 1.2 SAC QA reviewed the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and Implementation Plan (IP) for the Cyclical Program Review of the Political Science (undergraduate) programs and reported to SAC. SAC passed a motion to accept the Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan of the Cyclical Review of the Political Science (undergraduate) programs and forward the Executive Summary to Senate as an item of information.

2. Senate Academic Committee Regulations Sub-Committee

SAC passed a motion to approve SAC Regulation's calendar change recommendations and forward these requests to the next appropriate committee:

- Regulations-Modification-UG-Engineering-Updates-Additions (2016-ENG-6014)
- Admissions-Modification-UG-Social Work-One-Year admissions requirements-Date change (2016-HBS-6054-A)
- Admissions-Modification-UG-Social Work-One-Year admissions requirements-Date change (2016-HBS-6054-A)
- Regulation-Modification-UG-Social Work (2016-HBS-6054-B)
- Amendments to Education Regulations (2017-EDU-6075-A)
- Amendments to Education Admission Requirements (2017-EDU-6075-B)
- School of Nursing Regulation 8 Unsafe/Unethical/ Unprofessional Behaviour (2017-HBS-6072)
- Clarification of PhD Forestry Regulation- Supervisory Committee (2017-NAT-6169)
- University Regulation XII Timely Feedback (2017-UNIVREG-6170)

2.2 Test or Assignments in the Last Week of Classes Policy

SAC passed a motion to approve SAC Regulation's recommended revisions to the Test or Assignments in the Last Week of Classes Policy and recommend approval by Senate.

3. Senate Academic Committee/ Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council (O-AGC) Jt. Committee

SAC passed a motion to approve the Update to the ICR Courses in Anthropology (2016-SCI-5899).

4. D2L

The interface for D2L will be changing to the new interface "Daylight" on April 24. This change will include making D2L mobile friendly. The transition will be organized – more details will be posted in the Communication Bulletin.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wayne Melville
Chair, Senate Academic Committee

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Attachments



QUALITY ASSURANCE CYCLICAL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM REVIEW

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

March 2017

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Department of Political Science submitted a self-study (July 2013, revised September 2013). Volume 1 presented the program descriptions and outcomes, an analytical assessment of their programs and program metrics including results from a student survey along with institutional information and statistical data. Volumes 2 and 3, respectively, provided a collection of the program course outlines and the CV's for each full-time member in the Department.

Two external reviewers and one internal reviewer, selected by the Senate Academic Quality Assurance Sub-committee (SAC-QA) from a set of proposed reviewers, examined the materials and completed a day and a half site visit on November 26-27, 2013. The site visit included meetings with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Dean of the Faculty, Program Chair, tenured faculty, support staff, University Librarian, several alumni and current undergraduate students. The team also toured the library, some classrooms and Departmental facilities.

In their report (April 2014), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the undergraduate Political Science programs meet the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and are consistent with the University's mission and academic priorities. The admission standards, curriculum structure and delivery, and teaching and assessment methods are appropriate, reflect the discipline, and are effective in preparing graduates to meet defined program outcomes and the University's undergraduate Degree Level Expectations.

The Review Team identified several strengths including the following:

Courses in Political Science, as indicated by the course outlines and discussions with faculty and students, encourage the development of theoretical and practical thinking skills, ability to communicate clearly, and an interest in problem-solving.

Programs offered by the Department include a focus on student-centred learning, in particular the development of leadership and independent critical thinking skills.

The Department is to be commended for sustaining enrolments at a time when Political Science enrolments across the country are generally in decline. Offering courses in pre-law and on-line contributes to this sustained growth.

Most commendable is the energy of the students we met who commented favourably on the emphasis on teaching in the Department and the positive dynamic generated by recent hires in the last few years.

The Review Team noted several strengths of the program(s) while expressing concern about the resources available to the Department, the alignment of teaching on the two campuses and the currency and breadth of the course content.

The Review Team provided a number of recommendations with supporting rationale.

The Chair(s) of the Department (past and current), in consultation with the Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, submitted a response to the Reviewer's Report (September 2014, updated September 2016). Clarifications and corrections were presented followed by a response to each of the recommendations made by the Review Team.

A Final Assessment Report (FAR) has been prepared to provide a synthesis of the external evaluation and internal response to the recommendations. This report identifies the significant strengths of the programs, the opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

The FAR includes an Implementation Plan that identifies who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the FAR; who will be responsible for providing any resources made necessary 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.

Programs covered by this cyclical review:

- *Bachelor of Arts (Political Science)*
- *Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) Pre-Law*
- *Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Economics)*
- *Honours Bachelor of Arts (Political Science)*
- *Honours Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) Pre-Law*
- *Honours Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Economics)*
- *Honours Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and History)*
- *Honours Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Philosophy)*

Test or Assignments in the Last Week of Classes

Policy Category: Regulations

Approved By: Senate

Effective Date: February 25, 1986 [Reviewed Spring 2000]

Resolved that:

- In all courses instructors must not give any form of test other than laboratory and drafting tests in the last five days of classes in each term. ~~without prior approval of the Faculty Dean.~~
- In all courses instructors must not give any form of test, exam or assignment during the study period from the end of classes to the beginning of the formal examination period in each term as specified in the academic schedule published in the Calendar.
- Exceptions include condensed (less than 12 weeks) courses including but not limited to spring and summer courses.
- All other exceptions must be approved by the Dean. Exceptions granted should be included on the course outline.