



Executive Summary and Implementation Plan

Quality Assurance Cyclical Program Review

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

September 2016

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) submitted a self-study (January 2012). 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 15 and 16, 2012, at Lakehead's Orillia campus. The site visit included meetings with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Vice-Provost and Dean of Orillia campus, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies, University Librarian, full- and part-time faculty members and the administrative assistant. The Review Team toured facilities, including classrooms, offices, laboratories and student space, and met with current students and recent alumni.

In their report (January 2013), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies 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 provided recommendations with supporting rationale for future consideration.

Following receipt of the IS Reviewer's Report, the Department considered the recommendations and their implications, and engaged in discussion on other aspects of the Reviewers' Report in the context of the Provost's Task Force on the Academic Structure and Program Development on the Orillia Campus (struck in January 2013). The Department determined that it was necessary to delay formulating a final plan for moving forward to address the program recommendations until it was clear how the outcomes of the PTF would inform next steps for the department, its programs, and the University. In turn, the recommendations made by the reviewers of the BAsc/HBAsc programs were used to inform the work of the PTF particularly with respect to those details closely related to the delivery of the IS programs.

The Chairs of the program (in February 2014 and again in July 2016), in consultation with the Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, submitted a response to the Reviewers' Report. 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 Implementation Plan 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 and Sciences
- Honours Bachelor of Arts and Sciences

Implementation Plan (Part A): Departmental Responsibilities

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Continue curriculum review and development	As per best practices, the Department should maintain its focus on curriculum and the delivery of interdisciplinary programming. As part of this continued discussion, work with colleagues at the Thunder Bay campus to determine how best to share this expertise. Prepare a mid-cycle status report that addresses further progress and identifies next steps.	Chair and members of IS Department; Dean SSH	March 2018

Implementation Plan (Part B): Decanal & Administration Responsibilities

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
n/a			

*The Dean of the Faculty, in consultation with the Program Coordinator 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-President (Academic).