



Executive Summary and Implementation Plan

Quality Assurance Cyclical Program Review

Master of Economics

September 2016

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Department of Economics submitted a self-study (September 2015). Volume 1 presented the program descriptions and outcomes, an analytical assessment of the program 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 October 6 and 7, 2015. The site visit included meetings with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Vice-President (Research and Innovation), Dean of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies, Dean and Manager of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Coordinator of the MA Economics program, full-time faculty members, and University Librarian. The Review Team toured Lakehead's Thunder Bay campus and met with current graduate students in the program.

In their report (November 2015), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the MA Economics program meets the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and is 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 current state of the discipline, and are effective in preparing graduates to meet defined program outcomes and the University's graduate Degree Level Expectations.

"In comparison with other MA Economics programs in Canada, the program establishes a high standard for its students. With the required mathematical economics course, along with the remaining "core" courses, we anticipate that

strong students that wish to further pursue doctoral studies will be well prepared. Furthermore, the breadth of the course (8 required courses) and the requirement that students write a major research paper should prepare students well for careers as professional economists in research/policy capacity. The small class size gives students the opportunity for significant faculty contact.”

In addition, the Review Team provided recommendations with supporting rationale for future consideration.

The Chair of the Department in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator of the Program and the Dean of Science and Environmental Studies submitted a response to the Reviewer’s 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 program, the opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and sets out and prioritizes the recommendations made by the Review Team 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:

- Masters of Arts in Economics (Thesis and non-Thesis)

Implementation Plan (Part A): Departmental Responsibilities

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Consider adjusting structure of the program	As part of ongoing program review and improvement, consider recommendations from the Review Team to reduce the number of required courses. Provide report with conclusions and next steps to Dean SES.	Department Chair and Graduate Program Coordinator	March 2017

Implementation Plan (Part B): Decanal & Administration Responsibilities

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Hire Tenure Track Faculty**	As part of ongoing annual budget and planning cycle, plan for faculty succession and renewal.	Dean	Ongoing

*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).

**In keeping with a. the accepted scope and objectives of Cyclical Reviews as outlined in the Institutional Quality Assurance Process, and b. the direction provided at the outset of the site visit, Reviewers were reminded to “recognize the Institution’s autonomy to determine priorities for funding, space, and faculty allocation” (section 6.3).