



Executive Summary and Implementation Plan

Quality Assurance Cyclical Program Review

Department of Visual Arts, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

October 2018

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), the Department of Visual Arts submitted a self-study (January 2018, revised February 2018). 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 full- and part-time faculty members with teaching responsibility 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 two-day site visit in March 2018. The site visit included meetings with the Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Acting Dean - Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Chair - Department of Visual Arts, University Librarian, Liaison Librarian - Visual Arts, full- and part-time faculty members, Administrative Assistant - Visual Arts, current students and recent alumni. The Review Team examined University facilities and visited two local Art Galleries.

In their report (April 2018), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the undergraduate Visual Arts programs meet the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and aligns well with the University's mission and academic priorities. The Review Team notes that the Department is particularly strong in terms of its commitment to social justice, community engagement, and their efforts to include indigenous knowledge as part of the Visual Arts curriculum.

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 Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations.

The Review Team noted several strengths of the undergraduate Visual Arts programs and summarized them as follows:

“... the strongest indicator [of program quality] is the quality of the program graduates, many of whom continue to live in the Thunder Bay community, are employed in the arts and culture sector as gallerists, artists, educators, arts grant or government officers. This strong community of professionals attests to the status of the program as a key engine for stimulating the local and regional arts sector.”

“...The overall quality of teaching is high, and full-time faculty are productive researchers.”

The Acting Chair of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities submitted responses to the Review Team Report (July 2018 and August 2018, respectively). 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 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 (Visual Arts Major)
- Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Arts Major)
- Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts Major), Bachelor of Education (Primary/Junior)
- Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Arts Major), Bachelor of Education (Intermediate/Senior)

Additional Departmental academic offerings reflected-on by the Review Team during this cyclical review:

- Minor Program in Painting
- Minor Program in Printmaking
- Minor Program in Sculpture
- Minor Program in Ceramics
- Minor Program in Drawing
- Minor Program in Art History

Implementation Plan (Part A): Program Responsibilities

Implementation of the Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
<p>1. Review of curriculum (number of course offerings, effect of pre-requisites on program entry points, standardized course syllabi including Learning Outcomes) .</p> <p>[Addresses Recommendation 1, 2 and 7]</p>	Establish a Departmental committee to consider the recommendations and develop a plan to address them	Department Chair* and Members	June 2019
<p>2. Increase the level of communication, transparency and consultation between all full- and part-time members of the Department.</p> <p>[Addresses Recommendation 3]</p>	Establish Departmental protocols that address this goal	Department Chair* and Members, Dean of SSH	June 2019
<p>3. Develop a plan to create/acquire/upgrade additional/existing space for display and teaching purposes.</p> <p>[Addresses Recommendation 4]</p>	Establish a committee made up of internal and external members that can assist with this plan.	Department Chair* and Members, Dean of SSH, Office of External Relations	June 2019
<p>4. Develop a plan to identify and secure funds to cover expenses such as visiting artists, and use of off-campus gallery space.</p> <p>[Addresses Recommendation 5 and 6]</p>	Establish a committee made up of internal and external members that can assist with this plan.	Department Chair* and Members, Dean of SSH, Office of External Relations	June 2019

Implementation Plan (Part B): Decanal & Administration Responsibilities

Implementation of the Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
<p>1. Monitor conditions in studio space to ensure compliance with all relevant Health and Safety conditions.</p> <p>[Addresses Recommendation 8]</p>	<p>Meet regularly with appropriate personnel from Physical Plant and Human Resources (i.e. the Health and Safety Officer) to discuss status of studio and other space.</p>	<p>Dean SSH*, Department Chair, Physical Plant, Health and Safety</p>	<p>When required but at least once every year.</p>
<p>2. Meet regularly with Department to monitor progress on the Implementation Plan**</p>	<p>Report to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) as part of the Annual Review process</p>	<p>Dean SSH*</p>	<p>Annually</p>

*indicates individual or office with responsibility

Note - The Dean of the Faculty, in consultation with the Department Chair 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).