



Quality Assurance Cyclical Program Review – Executive Summary and Implementation Plan

Department of Women's Studies

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

November 2018

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), the Department of Women's Studies submitted a self-study (July 2017). 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 core faculty members and contract lecturers 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 September 2017. The site visit included meetings with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Acting Dean - Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Dean – Graduate Studies, Associate Vice-President (Research and Graduate Studies), four full-time faculty members, two long-time contract lecturers, several graduate affiliated faculty members, a group of graduate and undergraduate students, Coordinator of the Gender Equity Centre and the University Librarian. The Review Team observed the Telepresence room for part of a class and toured the new Teaching Commons (located in the Chancellor Paterson Library) and the Gender Equity Centre.

In their report (15 November 2017), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the programs delivered by the Department of Women's Studies meet the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and that the focused approach to multidisciplinary study, research and professional development is consistent with the University's mission and academic priorities "to be recognized as an innovative comprehensive university that provides an education that is about how to think not what to think."

Curriculum structure and delivery, and teaching and assessment methods are appropriate, are closely aligned with comparable programs across Canada at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, reflect the current state of the discipline, and are effective in preparing graduates to meet defined program outcomes and the University's Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Level Expectations.

The Review Team noted several strengths of the Women's Studies programs and summarized them as follows:

"... [Women's Studies] is clearly an invaluable addition to the larger Lakehead community. The Review Team has no concerns with the quality of instruction or curriculum and is unanimous in its respect and admiration for how much this department does for its size. This is a department of which Lakehead has every reason to be proud."

"...we are very impressed at the highly crafted program that the Department offers."

"... it is evident that Lakehead's Women's Studies program structure and regulations, with its rigorous curriculum and expert faculty, ensure that both graduate and undergraduate students have access to a high quality intellectual experience."

The Chair of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities submitted responses to the Review Team Report (March 2018). 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 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:

Undergraduate Programs:

BA (Women's Studies Major)
Honours BA (Women's Studies Major)
BA (Women's Studies Major) 4 Year
Honours BA (Women's Studies and English Majors)
BA (English and Women's Studies Majors) 4 Year
Honours BA (Gerontology and Women's Studies Majors)
Honours BA (History and Women's Studies Majors)
Honours BA (Indigenous Learning and Women's Studies Majors)
Honours BA (Psychology and Women's Studies Majors)
Honours BA (Specialized Honours in Psychology) with Major Concentration in Women's Studies
Honours BA (Political Science and Women's Studies Majors)
Honours BA (Sociology and Women's Studies Majors)
Honours Bachelor of Social Work with Concentration in Women's Studies
Honours Bachelor of Social Work with Specialization in Women's Studies
BA (Women's Studies Major)/Honours Bachelor of Outdoor Recreation
Minor Program in Women's Studies
BA, BEd (Women's Studies Major) P/J
Honours BA, BEd (Women's Studies Major) P/J

Graduate Programs:

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology with Specialization in Women's Studies
Master of Science in Psychological Science with Specialization in Women's Studies
Master of Arts in English with Specialization in Women's Studies
Master of Arts in Social Justice Studies with Specialization in Women's Studies
Master of Arts in Sociology with Specialization in Women's Studies
Master of Education with Specialization in Women's Studies
Master of Social Work with Specialization in Women's Studies

Implementation Plan (Part A): Program Responsibilities

Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
<p>Recommendation 1: Faculty Complement</p> <p>a) Replace faculty position of Dr. Pam Wakewich b) Replace the faculty position at a senior-level c) If position is a cross-appointment, that administrative service is solely within the Women’s Studies department</p>	<p>Develop and submit to the Dean, a request to fill a replacement faculty position taking the recommendation and other appropriate information into account.</p>	<p>Department Chair*, Department members, Dean</p>	<p>August 2018</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: Space Needs</p> <p>Additional departmental space for faculty, administrative space, and graduate students</p>	<p>Develop and submit to the Dean, a request for additional space taking the recommendation and other appropriate information into account.</p>	<p>Department Chair*, Department members, Dean</p>	<p>August 2018</p>

Implementation Plan (Part B): Decanal & Administration Responsibilities

Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Recommendation 1: Faculty Complement (see above)	Based on discussions with Department and proposal, bring staffing options forward as part of annual budgeting process.	Dean SSH*	Annually
Recommendation 2: Space Needs (see above)	Based on discussions with Department and proposal, bring space requirements forward under established Space Committee review process.	Dean SSH*	June 2019
Meet regularly with Department to monitor progress on the Implementation Plan**.	Report to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) as part of the Annual Review process.	Dean SSH*	Annually

* Indicates individual or office with direct responsibility

**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).