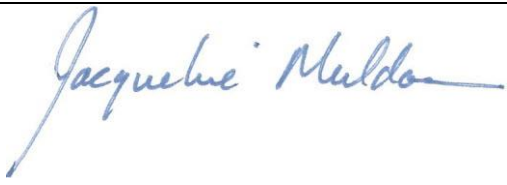


CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE (CPRC)

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

POLITICAL STUDIES

DEGREE PROGRAMS BEING REVIEWED	BA Political Studies BA International Political Economy, Joint Major
EXTERNAL REVIEWERS	Dr. Byron Sheldrick, University of Guelph Dr. Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Ryerson University
INTERNAL REPRESENTATIVE	Dr. Sheldene Simola, School of Business
YEAR OF REVIEW	2016-2017
DATE OF SITE VISIT	March 2 nd & 3 rd , 2017
DUE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	March 1, 2018
DATE OF NEXT CYCLICAL REVIEW	2024-2025
DATE PREPARED BY CPRC	November 1, 2017
DATE APPROVED BY PROVOST & VP ACADEMIC	November 12, 2017
SIGNATURE OF PROVOST & VP ACADEMIC	

The Department of Political Studies oversees the BA in Political Studies and the Joint Major in International Political Economy. Based on practical and theoretical premises the programs emphasize a critical understanding of the many dimensions of 'globalization', examine basic institutions of government and explore the ideas people use to understand and shape political life. The reviewers commented on the programs' strong interdisciplinary influences that 'provide students with a first-rate educational experience'.

The Political Studies BA offers courses in three areas of investigation: World Politics; Canadian Politics and Political Theory. International Political Economy (IPE) examines the interconnected nature of the study of politics and economics at the international and global levels. The Great Recession of 2008, worsening economic inequality, new regional and international trade regimes, and more broadly the

intensification of globalization have raised the prominence of the study of IPE in recent years among scholars and students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds.

SUMMARY OF PROCESS

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the BA Political Studies and Joint Major BA in International Political Economy underwent a review. Two arm's-length external reviewers (Dr. Byron Sheldrick, University of Guelph and Dr. Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Ryerson University) were invited to review the self-study documentation and then conducted a site visit to the university on March 2nd and 3rd, 2017. An internal member (Dr. Sheldene Simola, School of Business, Trent University) joined the Review Committee with the role of participating and facilitating during the site visit.

This Final Assessment Report (FAR), in accordance with Trent University's Institutional Quality Assurance Policy (IQAP), provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the undergraduate degree program. The report considers four evaluation documents: the Program's Self-Study, the External Reviewers' Report, the Program Response, and the Decanal Response.

A summary of the review process is as follows: the academic unit(s) completed a self-study which addressed all components of the evaluation criteria as outlined in Trent's IQAP. Appendices included: Curriculum Vitae; Course Syllabi; Learning Outcomes; Enrolment, Retention and Student Data; Calendar Copy; University Degree Requirements and TUFA Collective Agreement. Qualified external reviewers were invited to conduct a review of the two degree programs which involved a review of all relevant documentation (self-study, appendices, IQAP) in advance of the site visit. A two-day site visit took place where reviewers met with senior administration, faculty, and students.

Once the external reviewers' report was received both the Program and Dean provided responses to the report. The Cyclical Program Review Committee (CPRC) reviewed and assessed the quality of the degree programs based on the four review documents and reported on significant program strengths, opportunities for improvement and enhancement, and the implementation of recommendations.

The Implementation Plan identifies those recommendations selected for implementation and specifies: proposed follow-up, who is responsible for leading the follow-up, and the specific timeline for addressing the recommendation, if applicable. Academic units, in consultation with the respective Dean(s), will submit an Implementation Report in response to the recommendations identified for follow-up. The Report is due March 1, 2018.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- The reviewers were impressed by the quality of the teaching faculty, which is reflected through the excellence and innovation of the curriculum.
- The programs deliver quality education with high levels of student satisfaction and engagement.
- The programs are important contributors to the interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and intradisciplinary academic programming of the university.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

- The program should continue to pursue emerging areas of focus and identify key areas of student interest that will ensure the growth and stability of the program.
- Reviewers expressed the need for collection of data regarding time to completion.

COMPLETE LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This section includes summaries of the program and decanal responses.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That a quantitative methods course be considered if resources permit.

Program Response

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the programs introduced a new course, POST 3605H – Policy Analysis: Methods and Applications which includes a quantitative component oriented toward policy analysis and methods that will support students in skill development and critical thinking for relevant positions in the government, private, and non-governmental sectors.

Decanal Response

The Dean agrees with the recommendation. Although POST-3605H has 3-week block dedicated to quantitative methods, the program should consider the addition of a dedicated quantitative methods course. The Dean indicated that resources could be made available.

RECOMMENDATION 2

That the Law and Politics Emphasis be rethought and given greater coherence, with a specific intention of ensuring that: students develop a meaningful exposure to concepts of law and legal reasoning, and Political Studies derives benefits from housing the emphasis.

Program Response

The Law and Policy Emphasis is under consideration given that academic units have been asked to convert 'Emphases' to 'Options'.

Decanal Response

The structure of the Emphasis in Law of Policy is outside the scope of program quality.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That consideration should be given to making Law and Politics a specialization, or having the department's strength in this area clearly integrated into the proposed Public Policy specialization.

Program Response

Consideration will be given to the creation of a Specialization for Law and Politics or integration of the department's strength into the Specialization of Public Policy.

Decanal Response

The Dean would favour the creation of a Specializations in Law & Politics and in Public Policy that more fully leverage POST faculty strengths.

RECOMMENDATION 4

That the program further leverages its strengths to support the dual BA/LLB Swansea program.

Program Response

The programs' strengths in law and policy course offerings will be explored in the BA/LLB initiative with Swansea.

Decanal Response

The programs should further leverage their strengths to support the dual BA/LLB program with Swansea.

RECOMMENDATION 5

That administrative staff resources be periodically reviewed to ensure adequacy.

Program Response

The programs will review the administrative staff resources annually to ensure adequacy.

Decanal Response

The Dean's Office will continue to work to support the Academic Administrative Assistant and to work with the programs to monitor the adequacy of current resourcing of the position.

RECOMMENDATION 6

That maintenance of current departmental space, and the space reserved for students be carried out.

Program Response

POST will maintain and review current departmental space, and particularly the space reserved for students. These spaces are home to vibrant faculty and student discussions and program planning.

Decanal Response

The Dean is in agreement that the departmental space, as well as the space for students, should be maintained.

RECOMMENDATION 7

That the availability of graduate students for Teaching Assistant positions be monitored.

Program Response

POST will monitor the availability of graduate students for Teaching Assistant (TA) positions through graduate programs and Graduate Studies.

Decanal Response

The relevant collective agreement enables funded Graduate Teaching Assistants to indicate interest in specific posted work assignments. The programs should ensure that courses which can be taught by GTAs are easily identifiable in the Part-Time Job Postings.

RECOMMENDATION 8

That the university invest in increased faculty resources to support the programs.

Program Response

POST would welcome investment of resources by the university.

Decanal Response

The Dean will continue to monitor the staffing needs of the program to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to maintain its quality and academic integrity, and to support program innovation.

RECOMMENDATION 9

That the current program structure be retained.

The existence of a POST department that supports and houses these programs provides coherence and identity to the students. It is also important for students in the program to have an institutional home. Investments in the department should be used to ensure that more POST courses can be offered in support of the programs, thereby solidifying the identification of students with the department.

Program Response

POST students have been strongly involved in building community through the organization of the annual Trent University Politics Society (TUPS) Research Symposium. POST students and faculty work closely together to create meaningful scholarly and social events to build community and program spirit.

Decanal Response

The Dean is in agreement that the current programs structure should be retained.

RECOMMENDATION 10

That the three existing streams – World Politics, Canadian Politics, and Political Theory – be retained.

The streams are a distinctive feature of the current program, and provide a richness to the program.

Program Response

The political studies curriculum is unique within Trent, offering courses in key streams of politics. Each stream focuses on unique issues, and as part of the program's pedagogical approach faculty seek to generate synergies across streams.

Decanal Response

Dean agrees that the three fields should be retained.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The applicable Dean, in consultation with the Department Chair/Director of the relevant Academic Unit shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan. The Reporting Date for submitting a follow-up Implementation Report is indicated below and is the responsibility of the Academic Unit in consultation with the Dean.

DUE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION REPORT: March 1, 2018

The Implementation Report should be submitted to the applicable Dean(s) who will then forward the Report to the Office of the Provost.

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-Up <i>If no follow-up is recommended, please clearly indicate 'No follow up report is required' and provide rationale.</i> <i>Indicate specific timeline for completion or addressing recommendation if different than Due Date for Implementation Report</i>	Position Responsible for Leading Follow-up
<u>Recommendation #1</u> That a quantitative methods course be considered if resources permit.	The program should consider offering a full course in quantitative methods; resources should be discussed with Dean.	Chair in consultation with Dean
<u>LAW AND POLICY</u> <u>Recommendation #2</u> That the Law and Politics Emphasis be rethought and given greater coherence, with a specific intention of ensuring that: students develop a meaningful exposure to concepts of law and legal reasoning, and Political Studies derives benefits from housing the emphasis. <u>Recommendation #3</u> That consideration should be given to making Law and Politics a specialization, or having the department's strength in this area clearly integrated into the proposed Public Policy specialization. <u>Recommendation #4</u> That the program further leverages its strengths to support the dual BA/LLB Swansea program.	No follow up is required for Rec 2, 3 & 4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphases and Specializations are beyond the scope of this review. • The Program is encouraged to seek ways to contribute to the new dual BA/LLB program with Swansea, however this does fall outside the purview of this review. 	
<u>Recommendation #5</u> That administrative staff resources be periodically reviewed to ensure adequacy.	No follow up is required. The program is encouraged to review the workload of the AAA, however at this time the workload fits within the acceptable norms of the University.	

<u>Recommendation #6</u> That maintenance of current departmental space, and the space reserved for students be carried out.	Provide update on maintenance of spaces.	Chair
<u>Recommendation #7</u> That the availability of graduate students for Teaching Assistant positions be monitored.	Provide update.	Chair in consultation with Dean
<u>Recommendation #8</u> That the university invest in increased faculty resources to support the programs.	This is a faculty resource issue and is part of annual staffing plan discussions; under the purview of the Dean.	
<u>PROGRAM STRUCTURE</u> <u>Recommendation #9</u> That the current program structure be retained. <u>Recommendation #10</u> That the three existing streams – World Politics, Canadian Politics, and Political Theory – be retained.	No follow-up required. Program structure will be retained.	