

Anthropology 2017 Implementation Report

Submitted By: Natasha Pravaz, Program Coordinator

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Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #1: The University should ensure that course conflicts (timetabling) within Anthropology and between Anthropology and other Departments and programs are minimized. Priority should be placed on ensuring that no two Anthropology courses are taught in overlapping time-slots.	Program, Coordinator, Dean	Sept. 2018	Discussion with the Registrar's Office may be necessary.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
2017 Unit Comments: The program will submit a list of all Anthropology-approved electives offered by other units to the Registrar's during course build time, with the specific request that those courses not conflict with our own, on a year-specific basis. This has been arranged in conversation with Lyne Renaud, Timetabling Specialist, effective for the 2018-19 academic year.			
2017 Decanal Comments: The proposed consultation with the Registrar's Office should address this recommendation.			
2017 PRS Comments: The committee would appreciate an update on this recommendation in next year's report confirming that measures to reduce timetabling conflicts have been put in place for the 2018-2019 academic year.			

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #4: The standard introductory course (AN 100) should be offered in fewer but larger sections. It should be rescheduled such that it meets in a weekly two-hour block for lectures followed by a one-hour period for more informal activities. The inter-cultural lecture that is part of AN 100 should be taken over by the faculty member teaching the course, drawing on the facilitator from the Inter-	Program, Coordinator, Dean	Sept. 2018	

cultural Development Office only for the one-hour more informal session.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
<p>2017 Unit Comments: The unit has met to discuss the pedagogical implications of this recommendation, and has agreed that it does not want to move forward with larger but fewer sections for AN100. The classes are already capped at 200, and current instructors as well as the program as a whole agree that larger student numbers would compromise the quality of the teaching environment. Moreover, two-hour blocks were not considered appropriate for our 1st year students, in agreement with current practice throughout the Faculty of Arts. On the other hand, extensive discussion regarding the implementation of tutorials took place, including the increased benefits for our senior students who could thus acquire important teaching experience. We are moving forward with the support of CTIE, and hope to complete this portion by September 2018. Finally, the inter-cultural components of the course have already been taken over by instructors, and the support from the Intercultural Development Office is no longer required.</p>			
<p>2017 Decanal Comments: The Program’s hesitation to significantly increase the size of its first-year course is understandable, since the enrollment in AN100 is already quite large. I agree that the implementation of tutorials makes better pedagogical sense, although there may be some space issues in making them available. The Program has fully addressed the third part of the recommendation by having the course instructor deliver the inter-cultural part of the course, and thus removing the need for the Intercultural Development Office.</p>			
<p>2017 PRS Comments: The committee considered this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.</p>			

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #5: The program should seek to offer a few additional courses at the upper levels and deepen offerings in historical and contemporary, theoretical perspectives in the discipline.	Program, Coordinator	Sept. 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
<p>2017 Unit Comments: The unit has several upper level courses with both historical and contemporary theoretical focus in Anthropology. Some of these courses have not been offered recently because they are no longer required courses for our Majors, and very few students tend to enroll in courses with “theory” or “history of anthropology” on the title. We will undertake the revamping of calendar descriptions and titles for our more theoretically-oriented courses and begin to include them in our course rotation as of September 2018.</p>			
<p>2017 Decanal Comments: The program is moving to introduce changes to address this recommendation, and should report back on the success of its approach after enough time has passed to evaluate its effectiveness.</p>			

2017 PRS Comments: The committee agreed with the program and the dean that this recommendation was still in progress and would appreciate an update on the revamping of course calendar descriptions in next year's report.

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
<p>Recommendations #6 and #7¹:</p> <p>Recommendation #6: In order to make these recommendations practical there is quite a simple solution, namely to draw more extensively and more explicitly on the anthropologists housed in other programs and departments at WLU and at Waterloo. As a first step, some of their courses should be cross-listed and hence made an integral part of the Anthropology program.</p> <p>Recommendation #7: We recommend that the Dean encourage anthropology faculty in other Arts programs to participate in the Anthropology program. It should be made clear there would be no repercussions for tenure. With cross-listing no resources are withdrawn from home programs. Attention must be paid to the size of these courses and their equal availability to students registered in Anthropology, as well, of course, to students doing double majors in the respective programs.</p>	<p>Program Coordinator, Dean</p>	<p>Jan. 2019</p>	<p>Discussions with other Departments and Programs required.</p>

Completed In Progress Other

2017 Unit Comments: In-depth conversations have taken place since the time of the review with several other units across the Faculty of Arts, including Chairs and anthropology faculty, in order to list courses offered by anthropologists teaching in other units as Anthropology-approved. This extensive list is already part of our Combined Major's description:

<https://students.wlu.ca/programs/arts/anthropology/program-requirements.html>

Nonetheless, some of the difficulties presented with this approach are as follows:

- Our students are often unable to enroll in these courses as other units' students have priority.
- Some such courses are not offered every year, and some may not be offered by anthropologists at certain points in time.
- Some of these courses have prerequisites that may not have been taken by our students.

¹ Note: related recommendations have been grouped together as they appear in the Final Assessment Report.

- Our unit does not control when/if these courses are offered, their content, or how they relate to our curricular needs.
- Even when the courses are taught by anthropologists, they fulfill the specific needs of units other than Anthropology (anthropology is never on the course description, and non-anthropological concerns may be a priority in course delivery).
- These course have no AN (anthropology) designation.

To address some of these issues, the unit has begun to explore different options, including, as suggested in recommendation #7, that anthropologists in other programs teach AN-designated courses. This approach has been unfruitful so far, and the unit looks forward to further explorations in this regard with the support of the Dean.

2017 Decanal Comments: Discussion has begun with other academic units about cross-listing courses in order to address this recommendation. Although this process is not yet complete, at this point it appears that mutual agreement can be reached in order to expand course offerings available to Anthropology students.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee saw the benefit in building these connections across Arts disciplines in a way that benefits students by giving them access to additional courses that align with the Anthropology program learning outcomes. The committee would like an update on any initiatives undertaken in support of this recommendation in next year's report.

Decanal Comments: The Program has given serious consideration to all of the External Reviewers' recommendations, and is moving towards implementing those that it feels are appropriate to the needs of its students.

PRS Comments: The committee appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Anthropology program in the past year to implement the recommendations prioritized in the 2015-2016 Final Assessment Report. One of the recommendations was considered by the committee to be completed and the PRS looks forward to an update on the outstanding recommendations in next year's report.

Subsequent Report Required? Yes No