

English and Film Studies 2017 Implementation Report

Submitted By: Robin Waugh, Chair, Department of English and Film Studies

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Recommendation to be Implemented ¹	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
<p>Recommendation #8: Create an online presence for English and Film Studies and improve website.</p> <p>Recommendation #9: Advertise the MA Practicum widely and stress its uniqueness.</p>	<p>Department Chair and appropriate Department Faculty; Department Administrative Assistant</p>	<p>April 31, 2017</p>	<p>Elements of these two recommendations can be implemented in stages.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>			
<p>2017 Unit Comments for #8: Completed. The new website has become operational. The content of the website was written in September of 2016, and I have recently written updates, which CPAM has received. I have taken training in how to revise personal profiles. Appropriate updating will be ongoing.</p> <p>2017 Unit Comments for #9: Completed. The website and graduate guidebook now advertise the Practicum.</p>			
<p>2017 FOA Decanal Comments: This recommendation has been successfully fulfilled, although the additional suggestions by the Acting Dean of FGPS are well taken.</p>			
<p>2017 FGPS (Acting) Decanal Comments: I would encourage the English Dept. to highlight the Professional Skills Option at the MA level in recruitment efforts, and to gather data from students who have completed the course in order to offer testimonials to potential students. I would also encourage the department to continue to seek and cultivate community partners who might augment possible work placements and offer additional settings in which students might apply their skills. Additionally, I would encourage them to make contact with Development and Alumni Relations to determine if funds can be fund to pay students undertaking this course a minimal honorarium.</p>			
<p>2017 PRS Comments: The committee considered Recommendation #8 to be completed, but in the context of the FGPS dean's comments, would appreciate an update on evidence of the implementation of #9 in next year's report.</p>			

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

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
<p>Recommendation #10: Reassess the recent plethora of new courses to the curriculum in light of decreased numbers of tenure stream and Contract Academic Staff.</p> <p>Recommendation #12: Rethink MA and PhD streams to better articulate what differentiates WLU (e.g. MA practicum), PhD with Film Studies focus.</p> <p>Recommendation #13: Revise the Research Methods course further to introduce SSHRC/OGS workshop, add other professionalization seminars with a focus on alt-academic careers.</p>	<p>Department Chair and appropriate Department Faculty</p>	<p>January 31, 2017</p>	<p>The Department should continue its progress in relation to these recommendations.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>			
<p>2017 Unit Comments for #10. Completed and Ongoing. Any curriculum recommendations have been superseded by recent changes in enrollments patterns. In a retreat in August and at a subsequent special meeting of the English Program, the Department's offerings were completely reassessed with demand in mind, though it has become increasingly difficult to predict enrollment patterns for English courses in senior years. In first year, the Department was gratified to see the first need to increase tutorials due to all first-year courses being full to occur in several years. Due to the apparent popularity of our first-year offerings in particular, it was decided not to change these. Several Special topics courses have been introduced, with a view to regularization if these prove popular. For the first time, the Department also polled majors and non-majors in order to assess student desires, needs, and goals, and how well the Department's offerings were satisfying these. The results of this polling will figure in future decisions with regard to curriculum. The Department has started to cycle many courses that were typically offered each year. These measures should allow for further rationalization of curriculum.</p> <p>2017 Unit Comments for #12: Completed. The Department's Graduate Studies Committee and Department in Council held meetings on this subject and in the end the Department decided to keep the titles of its graduate programs and the streams the same. Several proposed changes were discussed, but none of these represented the academic disciplines covered by Department members as well as the current titles and streams. The Department is promoting the Practicum fully, now that it is a regularized and not a pilot program.</p>			
<p>2017 FOA Decanal Comments: The Department should consider implementing an overall strategy of deleting some courses when new courses are added. Cycling courses is a good approach, but can only be taken so far if the number of new courses added begins to significantly outpace those removed from the Calendar. Although a "one in, one out" method is too mechanical, a more general and flexible policy could be undertaken without significant negative impact on student choice.</p>			
<p>2017 FGPS (Acting) Decanal Comments: Fields for graduate programs are increasingly seen as outdated. I would encourage the department to think more broadly about how it might differentiate itself, with a further view toward professionalization, e.g. via exploring partnerships with local colleges in offering an MA plus a graduate diploma or</p>			

postgraduate certificate, or by exploring options for a Co-op with Laurier's Co-op office. I would also encourage the department to think in terms of broad competencies which professors might offer students rather than narrow areas of specialty. Last but not least I would encourage the program to look toward the ASPIRE program as ways of building professionalization opportunities into discrete course offerings.

2017 PRS Comments: All of the recommendations in this category are related to a curricular review of course offerings and areas of specialization within both the undergraduate and graduate programs. The committee would appreciate an update in next year's report on any curricular initiatives undertaken by the department in relation to data from the student poll that is mentioned above, as well as efforts to promote the practicum component of the graduate program.

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #16: Design and initiate linkages between Communications and English and consider how the English program Writing Minor might operate as a required course within multiple faculties.	Department Chair	April 31, 2017	Consultation with the Chair of Communication Studies, and between the relevant faculty in both departments, will be necessary.

Completed In Progress Other

2017 Unit Comments for #16: I have discussed potential linkages and several initiatives with the Chair of Communication Studies. A problem with any linkages in classes is that Communications Studies courses tend to fill almost completely with Communication majors, leaving little room for students in other majors. Communications Studies students continue to register in English and Film Studies classes. As for writing programs, I have held extensive discussions with Paul Jessop (Dean of Science), Ken Maly (Science), Bruce McKay (Science), Steffen Ziss (Economics), Ken Jackson (Economics), and Logan McLeod (Economics). Economics has developed a 200-level writing courses and sees EN190 as a good base for their new course. Science was very enthusiastic about EN190 as providing skills for their students. Sociology has adopted EN190 as its 1st-year skills course. Further initiatives with these programs will be ongoing, and the Department has also started Minors in Youth and Children Studies, and in Creative Writing.

2017 FOA Decanal Comments: As noted, linkages between Communication Studies and EFS (if defined as cross enrollments) can be challenging, since there is little room in most CS courses for additional registrants. Perhaps if "linkages" could be constructed in a wider sense, through the idea of shared topics of interest, that might create synergy between the units, but the problem of inequitable distribution of students would remain.

2017 FGPS (Acting) Decanal Comments: N/A, as this is an undergraduate initiative.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee considered this recommendation to be completed. No further reporting is necessary.

FOA Decanal Comments: EFS has moved diligently to fulfill the recommendations of the External Reviewers. The strategic control of courses being added in relation to those being deleted will need to be addressed on a continuing basis, especially since this is an issue regularly being raised at SAPC.

FGPS (Acting) Decanal Comments: I encourage English + Film Studies to continue its work and conversations around evolving graduate programming, particularly in the direction they've taken with their Professional Skills Option at the MA level.

PRS Comments: The committee appreciates the efforts of English and Film Studies in implementing the recommendations prioritized in the 2015-2016 Final Assessment Report. Many of the recommendations were significant, and it is understandable that they could take more than one year to implement. The committee looks forward to an update on the outstanding recommendations in next year's report.

Subsequent Report Required? Yes No