Anthropology 2018 Implementation Report

Submitted By: Tanya Richardson
Date: April 16, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation to be Implemented</th>
<th>Responsibility for Implementation</th>
<th>Anticipated Completion Date</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Program, Coordinator, Dean</td>
<td>Sept. 2018</td>
<td>Discussion with the Registrar’s Office may be necessary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 Actions

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 academic 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.

☐ Completed  ☐ In Progress  ☒ Other [has not been fully implemented on the part of the university]

2018 Unit Comments:

During the scheduling process in fall 2017, the program coordinator submitted a list of cross-listed and anthropology-approved courses in other programs to Lyne Renaud that it would be helpful to schedule in a coordinated and non-overlapping way.

However, in fall 2018 both cross-listed courses (AN/RE211 and AN/GS555) have been scheduled at times when other senior anthropology courses are offered. Although cross-listing courses was intended to expand student offerings, in practical terms student choice is still limited because these courses are offered at the same time as other anthropology courses.

While we recognize the challenges of scheduling, it would be helpful to have a bit more accommodation from the scheduling office in creating the initial timetable. This is because it is difficult to ask another program make changes to help anthropology once the initial schedule has been made. It is also difficult to get approval for a scheduling change from
the Faculty of Arts once the schedule has been made. On our side, in future years we will signal this in the staffing submission.

I would like to reiterate that scheduling difficulties are one of the key deterrents for majors and a key complaint of current majors.

2018 Decanal Comments: It is worth noting that the recommendation asks that scheduling conflicts be “minimized” – it does not suggest that they can be removed completely. Nonetheless, the program should certainly indicate the specifics of its scheduling requirements in its staffing request, and should also consider working with other units to use the 25% flexibility outside of the assigned schedule to directly address the question of timetable conflicts. Finally, although appeals to the Faculty of Arts for scheduling changes once the timetable has been established should be kept to a minimum, if accompanied by a clear rationale many such requests are granted, so the program should not hesitate to apply for changes it believes are necessary.

2018 PRS Comments: The committee felt that improvements in minimizing scheduling conflicts had been made since the review, and that the spirit of this recommendation had been satisfied. No further reporting is required, although attention should continue to be paid to the issue of scheduling conflicts and their prevention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation to be Implemented</th>
<th>Responsibility for Implementation</th>
<th>Anticipated Completion Date</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 Intercultural Development Office only for the one-hour more informal session.</td>
<td>Program, Coordinator, Dean</td>
<td>Sept. 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation completed (2017).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation to be Implemented</th>
<th>Responsibility for Implementation</th>
<th>Anticipated Completion Date</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Program, Coordinator</td>
<td>Sept. 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2017 Comments

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.

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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>In Progress</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 2018 Unit Comments:

Due to the constraints of the 7 credit combined major program, the limited number of courses that the program can run (17), and the lack of popularity of courses with “theory” or “history of anthropology” in the title, we have not offered these courses this year. We have also not pursued curriculum changes to revise them as the content is not as appealing to students as courses focused on particular topics. Conversations with a first year student who decided to major in anthropology this year suggest that methods courses (AN300 and AN400) and the topics courses are the ones they are most excited to take.

The way we have decided to address this issue is to rename and reconceive AN450 Contemporary Theory and Ethnography. Its tentative new name is “Topics in Contemporary Anthropology.” This course will provide students with some additional engagement with general theoretical trends in the first part of the course. During the second part students will research and present about debates in a subfield of their choice such as law, environment, gender, etc. This is the way we are addressing the reviewers’ demands for more theory and students’ demands for opportunities to explore their particular interests in a situation where we can offer only one .5 credit fourth year seminar in addition to the capstone course AN400 (Doing Fieldwork).

### 2018 Decanal Comments: The program’s decision to rename its AN450 class, and provide additional engagements with theory, partially addresses the recommendation, but it does not generate the changes at the core of the reviewers’ suggestion. I understand the limits imposed by the number of courses available, and the need to take into account student interest, but the recommendation that “courses at the upper level” be considered is not restricted to those at the 400 level. I would suggest that the program consider revamping some of its classes at the 300 level, as was implied in the program’s 2017 response, as a way of expanding its response to this recommendation.

### 2018 PRS Comments: Based on the unit-defined status of this recommendation as still “in progress,” along with the suggestion of the dean that courses at the 300-level could be reviewed and revised, the committee would like to see one additional report back on this recommendation next year.
## Recommendation to be Implemented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation to be Implemented</th>
<th>Responsibility for Implementation</th>
<th>Anticipated Completion Date</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations #6 and #7:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator, Dean</td>
<td>Jan. 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussions with other Departments and Programs required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 Comments

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](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.
- 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.

---

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

Completed ☑️ In Progress □ Other

2018 Unit Comments:

In the fall of 2018, the program succeeded in having 2 courses cross-listed in order to expand our offerings: AN/RE211 Indigenous Religions; and AN/GS355 Indigenous Issues in Global Context. Seats have been reserved in both classes for anthropology students. This is a positive development. However, as mentioned, the program feels that more support in avoiding scheduling conflicts would be beneficial.

Regarding #7 and #8 we are aware that we need to strike a balance between expanding offerings through cross-listing courses taught by other anthropologists in the Faculty of Arts, and ensuring that the courses that anthropology does offer have sufficient enrollments. This is particularly true at the 4th year level. Therefore we will evaluate whether more courses should be cross-listed in the coming year.

2018 Decanal Comments: The program has begun the process of addressing these recommendations through its initial two cross-listings. I would encourage it to continue to move in this direction as it suggests it will in its final comment. The question of timetable scheduling should not be an unresolvable issue.

2018 PRS Comments: The committee viewed this recommendation as ongoing in nature, and encouraged continued attention be paid to it, but no further reporting is required on it.

Unit Comments: With the exception of redesigning AN450 to address the issue of incorporating more theory into the program, the program has done what it can to respond to implement the recommendations of reviewers. At this point, a little bit more additional accommodation with regards to scheduling would help ensure students can assemble their timetables with fewer scheduling conflicts and make doing an Anthropology major more manageable.

PRS Comments: The committee recognizes that many of the recommendations made by the review team in 2015-2016 are ongoing in nature and do not necessarily require annual reporting in order to be considered completed. There is one recommendation outstanding from this review that comments suggest is still in progress, and that the committee would appreciate one further update on next year.

Subsequent Report Required? Yes ☑️ No □