

# Economics

## 2015 Annual Implementation Report

Submitted by: Steffen Ziss, Chair of the  
Department of Economics  
On: June 29, 2015

## Recommendations from 2013-2014 Final Assessment Report

<b>Recommendation: Maintain 4-5% gap between the BBA entry average and the Economics entry average (Reviewers' Recommendation #1).</b>	
<b>Responsibility: SBE Dean</b>	<b>Implementation Date: November 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: The minimum entry averages have been maintained at 88 for BBA and 84 for Economics.	
Decanal Response: None.	
PRS Comments: The committee considers this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.	

<b>Recommendation: Adopt BBA method for calculating Economics entry average (i.e. average includes 1 English, 2 Math and 3 next best courses).</b>	
<b>Responsibility: U/G Economics Programs Director</b>	<b>Implementation Date: June 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: Consult further with admissions.	
Decanal Response: None	
PRS Comments: Please provide an update on the status of this consultation and outcome in next year's report.	

<b>Recommendation: Economics Department, PRISM and the Economics Club provide STATA tutorials for all U/G EC courses requiring STATA (Reviewers' Recommendations #2, #11, and #12).</b>	
<b>Responsibility: U/G Economics Programs Director</b>	<b>Implementation Date: September 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: The Department is in the process of hiring instructional assistants for 2015-6.	
SBE Decanal Response: Funded by SBE.	

FGPS Decanal Response: Query—are there an insufficient number of graduate TAs for this purpose?
PRS Comments: Please provide an update on this recommendation in next year’s report.

<b>Recommendation: Provide instructional assistants for all sections of EC270 &amp; EC290.</b>	
<b>Responsibility: U/G Economics Programs Director</b>	<b>Implementation Date: September 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: The Department is in the process of hiring instructional assistants for 2015-6.	
SBE Decanal Response: Funded by SBE	
FGPS Decanal Response: It would be useful to know if this is a problem of an insufficient number of graduate students to act as TAs for these courses. Does the program think they have capacity for higher graduate enrolments?	
PRS Comments: Please provide an update on the status of this recommendation in next year’s report.	

<b>Recommendation: Use Writing Centre to help improve writing skills in EC481 (Reviewers’ Recommendations #3 and #9).</b>	
<b>Responsibility: EC481 Instructors</b>	<b>Implementation Date: September 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: Will pursue the matter with the EC481 instructors.	
Decanal Response: None	
PRS Comments: Please provide an update on the status of this recommendation in next year’s report.	

<b>Recommendation: Have EC455 taught by an Economics Professor (Reviewers' Recommendation #10).</b>	
<b>Responsibility: Chair of Economics</b>	<b>Implementation Date: Fall 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: Wing Chan will be teaching EC455 in 2015-16 and beyond.	
Decanal Response: None.	
PRS Comments: The committee considers this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.	

<b>Recommendation: Encourage undergraduate students interested in graduate school to apply for OCGS and/or SSHRCC by: (i) including application information in the letter sent to high achieving 4<sup>th</sup> year students; (ii) posting application information on the MyLS site available for all Economics Students; and (iii) mentoring; discuss capacity to increase enrolment in MABE (Reviewers' Recommendations #7a, #7e, #7g, 8).</b>	
<b>Responsibility: Chair of Economics (letters); U/G Economics Programs Director (posting, mentoring); Graduate Coordinator &amp; FGPS Dean</b>	<b>Implementation Date: Fall 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: Application information has been (i) sent to high achieving 4 <sup>th</sup> year students and (ii) posted on MyLS. High achieving students are mentored and encouraged to apply to graduate school by the Undergraduate Economics Director. First year MABE admissions were increased from 13 in 2014-15 to 21 in 2015-16.	
Decanal Response: None.	
FGPS Decanal Response: Good to see that the program is predicting an increase in graduate enrolments for 15/16 (and current acceptances indicate that this number will be reached), but it would be useful to note if they feel this is their maximum capacity, and whether this will help with the noted TA needs.	
FGPS in collaboration with the Career Centre and the Writing Centre offer a full suite of workshops to prepare students for application to graduate programs and scholarships. We would be pleased to provide this information to the Undergraduate Economics Director if that would be helpful.	
PRS Comments: The committee considers this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.	

<b>Recommendation: Cross list 4<sup>th</sup> year electives and MABE electives</b>	
<b>Responsibility: U/G Economics Programs Director; Graduate Coordinator in consultation with FGPS Dean</b>	<b>Implementation Date: Winter 2014: Labour Economics; Winter 2015: Trade</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: Labour Economics was cross-listed in Winter 2015, Trade will be cross-listed in Winter 2016.	
SBE Decanal Response: None.	
FGPS Decanal Response: This recommendation may be completed, but I need more information. I was not consulted, as noted above, although it possible that one of the FGPS staff was. It is not clear what these courses are, and whether they are undergraduate or graduate courses. How will this cross-listing be done? If these are undergraduate courses, what extra assignments, etc. have been added to ensure that they are "graduate level?"	
PRS Comments: The committee considers this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.	

<b>Recommendation: Hire a staff person to advise U/G Economics students</b>	
<b>Responsibility: Dean of SBE</b>	<b>Implementation Date: Fall 2015</b>
Progress to Date (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Response: None.	
Decanal Response: It is anticipated that a staff advisor will be in place by Fall 2015.	
PRS Comments: Please provide an update on the status of this recommendation in next year's report.	

<b>Recommendation: Maintain the \$5,000 Deans' MABE Scholarship and pursue avenues for int'l MABE student funding (e.g. self-funding) (Reviewers' Recommendation #7d, #7g, #8).</b>	
<b>Responsibility: SBE Dean (scholarship); MABE Director (int'l student funding); consult with FGPS Dean</b>	<b>Implementation Date: Ongoing</b>

Progress to Date (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):
Unit Response: Grad Studies has provided some funding for international students.
SBE Decanal Response: \$5,000 Dean's scholarship has been maintained.
PRS Comments: The committee considers this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.

**Additional Comments (PRS):** The committee appreciates the initiative that the Department has demonstrated in completing several of the recommendations that came out of the 2013-2014 cyclical review and hope that these result in positive changes for students in the programs. The committee looks forward to an update on the remaining recommendations in next year's report.

**Additional Recommendation from the Program Review Sub-Committee:** At its November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting, Senate Academic Planning approved the following motion: "that the Senate Academic Planning Committee, on the recommendation of the Program Review Sub-Committee, approve the inclusion of a university-wide recommendation on each Annual Implementation Report that, prior to the next cyclical review, the program develop a means for assessing program learning outcomes." A full explanation of the rationale behind the motion can be found here:

[http://legacy.wlu.ca/documents/56385/PRS\\_Recommendation\\_for\\_Annual\\_Implementation\\_Reports\\_SAPC\\_Nov\\_11\\_2013.pdf](http://legacy.wlu.ca/documents/56385/PRS_Recommendation_for_Annual_Implementation_Reports_SAPC_Nov_11_2013.pdf)

Acknowledging that SBE is in a unique position with its accreditation requirements, the committee recommends that SBE put together a strategy for collecting and presenting evidence of this assessment in its next cyclical review.