



# Economics

2016 Annual Implementation Report

Submitted by: Steffen Ziss

Date: May 4, 2016

## **Recommendations from the 2013-2014 Final Assessment Report**

<b>Recommendation:</b> Maintain 4-5% gap between the BBA entry average and the Economics entry average (Reviewers' Recommendation #1).	
<b>Responsibility:</b> SBE Dean	<b>Implementation Date:</b> November 2015
<b>Recommendation completed (2015).</b>	

<b>Recommendation:</b> Adopt BBA method for calculating Economics entry average (i.e. average includes 1 English, 2 Math and 3 next best courses).	
<b>Responsibility:</b> U/G Economics Programs Director	<b>Implementation Date:</b> June 2015
<b>2014-2015 Actions</b>	
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.	
2015-2016 Progress (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Comments: This issue is made a little more complicated due to the difference between the Economics and Applied Economics requirements - but we could implement something (possibly just including English and Advanced Functions in a new "Economics" average). We have also looked into the effects and they appear to be marginal but in the right direction.	
LSBE Decanal Comments: Agree	
PRS Comments: We understand that the Department passed curriculum changes recently that may have a relation to this recommendation. Acknowledging that this recommendation is now several years old, please provide a final update in next year's report on whether or not changes to the method of calculating the entry average should and/or will be made.	

<b>Recommendation:</b> 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>Responsibility:</b> U/G Economics Programs Director	<b>Implementation Date:</b> September 2015
<b>2014-2015 Actions</b>	

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.

2015-2016 Progress (check one):

Completed

In Progress

Other (please explain):

Unit Comments: Instructional assistants were hired in 2015-16 to conduct STATA tutorials. The reason that we cannot rely on graduate TAs is that every undergraduate program has different software packages and thus graduate as well as undergraduate students would find STATA tutorials useful.

Decanal Comments: The School provided a budget allocation for this.

Acting Dean FGPS: Please clarify where the IAs are coming from and whether graduate students are also benefitting from these tutorials, as well as whether additional TAs might be needed.

PRS Comments: The committee felt that further clarification on the implementation of this recommendation was required. In next year's report, please provide a response to the comments made by the Acting Dean of FGPS.

**Recommendation: Provide instructional assistants for all sections of EC270 & EC290.**

**Responsibility: U/G Economics Programs Director**

**Implementation Date: September 2015**

**2014-2015 Actions**

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.

2015-2016 Progress (check one):

Completed

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain): |

Unit Comments: We hired Instructional Assistants in 2015-16 in EC270, EC285 (joint with SI) and in EC290. We could improve implementation and effectiveness. IAs are used to supplement the graduate TAs in courses that have a heavy marking workload.

Decanal Comments: Agree

Acting Dean FGPS: Please contact FGPS in the event that additional TAs are required.

PRS Comments: The committee considered this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.

**Recommendation: Use Writing Centre to help improve writing skills in EC481 (Reviewers' Recommendations #3 and #9).**

<b>Responsibility: EC481 Instructors</b>	<b>Implementation Date: September 2015</b>
--	--

**2014-2015 Actions**

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.

**2015-2016 Progress (check one):**

Completed

In Progress

Other (please explain):

Unit Comments: Issue is complicated by the fact that Laurier eliminated the Manager position in the Writing Centre, so the one person that faculty members have worked with is no longer at the university. There have also been discussions about adding a writing course in the program - although this would not happen for at least two years.

Decanal Comments: Discussions are ongoing

Acting Dean FGPS: Has the English department been consulted on the possibility of mounting such a course?

PRS Comments: The committee was informed that the department has recently created its own writing course; given this, the spirit of the recommendation (i.e. to improve writing skills) was considered to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.

<b>Recommendation:</b> Have EC455 taught by an Economics Professor (Reviewers' Recommendation #10).	
<b>Responsibility:</b> Chair of Economics	<b>Implementation Date:</b> Fall 2015
<b>Recommendation completed (2015).</b>	

<b>Recommendation:</b> 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>Responsibility:</b> Chair of Economics (letters); U/G Economics Programs Director (posting, mentoring); Graduate Coordinator & FGPS Dean	<b>Implementation Date:</b> Fall 2015
<b>Recommendation completed (2015).</b>	

<b>Recommendation:</b> Cross list 4 <sup>th</sup> year electives and MABE electives	
<b>Responsibility:</b> U/G Economics Programs Director; Graduate Coordinator in consultation with FGPS Dean	<b>Implementation Date:</b> Winter 2014: Labour Economics; Winter 2015: Trade
<b>Recommendation completed (2015).</b>	

<b>Recommendation:</b> Hire a staff person to advise U/G Economics students	
<b>Responsibility:</b> Dean of SBE	<b>Implementation Date:</b> Fall 2015
<b>2014-2015 Actions</b>	
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.	
2015-2016 Progress (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Comments: A staff advisor (Amy Neufeld) was hired on a permanent basis in Fall 2015	

to advise both Economics and BBA students
Decanal Comments: Completed
PRS Comments: As this recommendation has been completed, there is no need to report it on further.

<b>Recommendation:</b> 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>Responsibility:</b> SBE Dean (scholarship); MABE Director (int'l student funding); consult with FGPS Dean	<b>Implementation Date:</b> Ongoing
<b>Recommendation completed (2015).</b>	

***Additional Comments (PRS):*** All but two of the recommendations out of the 2013-2014 cyclical review that were prioritized are considered to be completed at this point. In next year's report, please ensure that sufficient information is provided by both the department and the dean for the committee to evaluate whether or not it has been responded to sufficiently, acknowledging that some priorities may have changed since the site visit.