



Global Studies

2016 Annual Implementation Report

Submitted by: Timothy Donais, Chair

Date: 13 June 2016

Recommendations from 2014-2015 Final Assessment Report

Recommendation: Develop an inclusive, coherent Mission Statement that is accessible to students and CAS faculty (Reviewer's Recommendation #1 and #2).	
Responsibility for Implementation: Department Chair	Anticipated Completion Date: December 2015
2015-2016 Progress (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Comments: A mission statement was drafted and approved by the GS DIC in Fall 2015; it is now publicly accessible on the main GS webpage (and will be on the new website as well); we've also developed a 't-shirt' version of the statement which we'll be using on various promotional materials.	
Decanal Comments: The mission statement that appears on the Global Studies webpage meets the requirements of being "inclusive" and "coherent," and is easy enough to locate, which matches the need for accessibility.	
PRS Comments: The committee considers this recommendation to be completed; there is no need to report on it further.	

Recommendation: Revise the required courses (Reviewer's Recommendation #3).	
Responsibility for Implementation: Department Chair	Anticipated Completion Date: August 31, 2016
2015-2016 Progress (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Comments: Revisions have been made to our core 200-level development concentration courses (a particular concern for the reviewers), while GS220 was introduced in 2014-15 as a new core course for the globalization and culture concentration. GS231 – one of two core peace and conflict courses – was also renamed in 2014-15 as 'War, Culture, and Conflict' to better differentiate this course from other courses in this concentration. Substantive changes have not been made to either GS201 (Theory) or GS202 (Methods), although in the case of the former we continue to reflect on what precisely constitutes the core of global 'theory', and we expect GS201 to continue to evolve over time. Finally, for 2016-17 we have introduced a second 100-level required course, which will be restricted to GS majors only.	
Decanal Comments: The department has made clear efforts to revise its course offerings, although as noted some of those revisions are conceived as incremental rather than immediate. No doubt the department is in the best position to decide which mode best suits which course, and the introduction of a new required class at the 100-level indicates a willingness to take seriously the need to continue evaluating how best to introduce its students to the discipline.	

PRS Comments: The committee concurs that this recommendation has been completed and further updates are not required.

Recommendation: Clarify streams, including the development of core courses for each stream, as aligned with Senate policies (Reviewers' Recommendation #4).	
Responsibility for Implementation: Department Chair	Anticipated Completion Date: August 31, 2016
Additional Notes: Final structure of the streams in the program may be dependent on changes to Senate policy expected in 2015-16	
2015-2016 Progress (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Comments: After a false start in 2014-15 (when SAPC pushed back our request to convert our 'streams' into 'internal options', because of the need to clarify the institutional use of the term 'option'), this year we successfully passed through Senate a proposal to transform our three streams – peace and conflict, international development, and globalization and culture - into 'concentrations'. This conversion of streams into concentrations provides students who choose to pursue a concentration as part of their GS degree program with a specific set of both required and elective courses that they need to complete (3.0 credits per concentration) in order to have the concentration appear on their degree transcript. This curricular change provides both more clarity and better structure for GS majors seeking to specialize in one specific issue area.	
Decanal Comments: Global Studies, along with a number of other departments in the Faculty of Arts, was diligent in adapting and implementing its curriculum to match the revised definitions of "minor," "option," and "concentration." It is encouraging to see this alteration achieved successfully.	
PRS Comments: The committee considers this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.	

Recommendation: Improve procedures for advising students (Reviewers' Recommendation #8).	
Responsibility for Implementation: Department Chair	Anticipated Completion Date: December 1, 2015
2015-2016 Progress (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Comments: In the past two years, the university has been in the process of rolling out a new website. This summer, in line with possibilities afforded by this process, the department will present in a more succinct and clear manner an overall portrait of the program as well as its components. The structure of the new department website (with a page for each concentration and for the GSE) should help give students a clearer understanding of the structure of the program and its various components as each will have its own page.	

Decanal Comments: The Faculty of Arts has recently developed and implemented a new set of Guidelines for Academic Advising that will contribute to a clearer and more efficient method for assisting students. Along with improvements to the new website this should also help Global Studies meet this recommendation.

PRS Comments: The committee looks forward to an update on this recommendation in next year's report once the new website and advising structure are in place.

Recommendation: Develop better access for students and faculty to at least one Master's program at Laurier (Reviewers' Recommendation #10).

Responsibility for Implementation: Department Chair	Anticipated Completion Date: August 31, 2016
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2015-2016 Progress (check one):

- Completed
- In Progress**
- Other (please explain):

Unit Comments: Over the course of 2015-16, GS collaborated with the Department of Religion & Culture to re-work the existing R&C MA program into a joint MA, which has been renamed "Religion, Culture and Global Justice"; this program, which will commence in Fall 2017, will be jointly managed by the two departments, and will offer direct access to an MA program for both GS faculty and students. While the implementation of the new MA program will unfold over the coming years, we consider this recommendation to have been substantially met at this point.

Decanal Comments: The ongoing collaboration between the Department of Global Studies and the Department of Religion and Culture has produced a number of useful curriculum developments for both groups, and this new MA program is another example of that positive interaction.

PRS Comments: It sounds like good progress has been made on this in the past year; please provide any further updates in next year's report.

Additional Comments (PRS): The committee was impressed that several of the recommendations included in the 2014-2015 Final Assessment Report have now already been completed. We offer the Department good wishes with its initiatives in the coming year. Please note the additional recommendation from the committee below.

Additional Recommendation from the Program Review Sub-Committee: At its November 11th, 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