

Sociology
2016 Annual Implementation Report

Submitted by: Lucy Luccisiano, Chair, Department
of Sociology

Date: June 15, 2016

Recommendations from 2013-2014 Final Assessment Report

Recommendation: Develop a proposal for a curricular emphasis on Applied Social Research that does not increase the need for new resources and that relies mainly on teaching and supervision by full time faculty members in sociology or other programs (Reviewers' Recommendation #3).	
Responsibility: Department Chair	Implementation Date: January 2015
Additional Notes: Once the proposal has been developed, it will be submitted to the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee.	
Recommendation completed (2015).	

Recommendation: Prepare a report listing what administrative responsibilities, within the dept. and within the university, have been assumed by each full time member for the last three academic years. (Each member can presumably provide this easily by drawing from their Annual Reports.) This report will include the approximate (average) number of hours per week during Fall, Winter and Sprummer spent on each administrative activity. If the report suggests that all faculty have assumed more than their fair share of administrative responsibilities, the Chair – in consultation with the Sociology DIC – will propose ways of reorganizing departmental administration in order to lighten the administrative workload. If the report suggests that not all faculty have assumed a fair and equitable share of administrative responsibilities within the Department, or the University more generally, the Chair will present the Dean of Arts with recommendations for addressing that situation (Dean of Arts Recommendation).	
Responsibility: Department Chair	Implementation Date: January 2015
Additional Notes: The Chair will discuss this report with the Dean.	
2014-2015 Actions	
<p>Unit Response: The Chair has discussed this issue at several department meetings, and with the Quality Assurance Office (Sally Heath). In fulfilling this recommendation, the Chair designed a template or "service log" for each department member to fill out. This template was distributed to all faculty members in April of 2015. To date, a number of service logs have been submitted, but some are pending. Once all the logs have been submitted, the Chair will review and assess and determine next steps based on this analysis.</p> <p>Arts Decanal Response: I appreciate the delicate nature of these sorts of exercises, particularly in a department with several senior faculty members with established work patterns. My recommendation is for a fixed September 1 2015 reporting date, with the Dean receiving whatever information, and recommendations, the Chair might have.</p> <p>PRS Comments: The committee encourages the Department Chair to continue to work with the Dean of Arts on a solution to this recommendation. Please provide a brief update on the outcome of this recommendation in next year's report.</p>	

2015-2016 Progress (check one):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> In Progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):	
Unit Comments: All members of the department submitted their three-year service record to the Chair. I've reviewed their reports and did find unevenness in service. Most, but not all, of the unevenness was with senior faculty members who have now retired from the University.	
As per our Sociology policy manual, all department members must serve on two committees. All members are doing so. Clearly, there continues to be unevenness in service work. But all members do meet a satisfactory requirement for service, while many exceed their service contribution.	
The former Dean of Arts, Michael Carroll, not the reviewers, recommended that the department conduct this service review. It is now complete.	
Decanal Comments: The difficulty of quantifying service, given the fluctuating demands of certain committees and the differing requirements they entail to meet their mandates, makes efforts to measure equity of contribution difficult. The department has made serious efforts to address this challenging request, and has established a baseline that should serve for future considerations concerning this issue.	
PRS Comments: The committee agrees that this recommendation has been completed and there is no need to report on it further.	

Recommendation: The Department will develop a procedure for keeping track of its alumni, and – working with Alumni relations – will survey as many alumni as possible at least once a year (Reviewers' Recommendation #5).	
Responsibility: Department Chair and Graduate Coordinator	Implementation Date: June 2015
Additional Notes: Consult with Career Development Centre, Alumni Relations & FGPS Communications Coordinator.	
2014-2015 Actions	
Unit Response: The Sociology department has discussed the issue at a D-I-C meeting. A committee will be set up in the fall 2015 to develop strategies to help track the undergraduate and graduate alumni. The Chair has had an initial conversation with the Quality Assurance Office (Sally Heath) about potential survey questions that would allow the program to use alumni data not only to keep track of its former students, but also to inform future changes to learning outcomes and program curriculum. The Graduate Program will be working with the undergraduate program to track alumni and will also seek support from Alumni Relations. A new M.A. Sociology blog is in development and will feature the stories of graduates who have gone on to pursue PhDs or enter the workforce.	
Decanal Response: All good suggestions. I would suggest speedy action on this (a December 2015 report). Note that Harry Froklage, working with the Arts External Advisory Committee a year and a half ago, set up a survey of all Arts alums. Out of this work comes	

two suggestions: (1) contact Harry on the questions he used and the process he took; (2) ask him for the list of Sociology alumni who came out of this process. It would be a good place in which to start.

FGPS Decanal Response: I agree. Good suggestions. I look forward to the blog.

PRS Comments: Please provide a brief update on this recommendation in next year's report.

2015-2016 Progress (check one):

Completed

In Progress

Other (please explain):

Unit Comments:

The department has taken several steps to forge and maintain connections with our alumni. Meetings were held with Mary Neil at the Alumni Relations office to discuss outreach with our former students. Since the fall of 2015, Laurier Sociology joined social media, including Facebook and Twitter. Alumni Relations sent out a message to our BA and MA alumni, and the department regularly informs the students in the BA and MA program about our social media presences. We currently have 193 twitter followers, and 141 likes on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LaurierSociology>

Our twitter handle is @WLUSociology, and we can be found here:

<https://twitter.com/WLUSociology>

The department continues to have on-going conversations about how to keep in touch with our former students. We will survey our alumni every couple of years to have up-to date information on them.

The Career Centre's student survey, which is done at the BA convocation, has been very useful to providing information to our current students about career paths including post-degree programs.

Arts Decanal Comments: The recommendation to stay connected with alumni applies not just to individual departments and programs but to the Faculty as a whole. While it is certainly appropriate for Sociology to connect specifically with its graduates, it would be useful to bring such efforts into alignment with a larger, unified effort to ensure a continuing connection with Arts alumni, and the soon-to-be-formed Faculty of Arts Communication and Recruitment Committee should provide opportunities for concerted efforts in this direction.

FGPS Decanal Comments: Great content on social media, especially regarding research, social issues and the undergraduate program. More use could be made of these media to specifically highlight the graduate program.

PRS Comments: This recommendation is also considered to be completed with no further reporting necessary. The department's use of social media was considered by the committee to be an excellent example for other units.

Recommendation: The graduate program will develop and submit a proposal for the modification or deletion of existing fields (Reviewers' Recommendation #2).	
Responsibility: Graduate Coordinator	Implementation Date: Fall 2014
Additional Notes: Discuss proposal with FGPS Dean & bring through necessary Senate approval processes.	
Recommendation completed (2015).	

Additional Comments (PRS): The committee has been impressed by Sociology's commitment to implementing the recommendations that came out of the 2013-2014 Final Assessment Report and would like to thank them for their diligence and expediency in doing so. For the purposes of reporting, the recommendations are all considered to be completed and no further implementation reports will be required. The next scheduled cyclical review for the programs offered by the Department will be as part of the 2020-2021 review cycle.