

Italian Studies

Undergraduate Program Review

Executive Summary

This program review predates the implementation of the York University Quality Assurance Policy (October 2010) and related Procedures (November 2011). The completion of this review encountered delays owing to the transition to the new policy and procedures. Accordingly, this final assessment report bridges the old process with the new. Given these circumstances, this final assessment report may include recommendations from reviewers that may have already been accomplished. In those instances, the report will reflect where progress has been achieved.

The Undergraduate Program Review (UPR) of the Bachelor of Arts in Italian Studies was conducted in February 2011. The Consultants were: Dr. Giuseppe Mazzotta (Yale University, external) and Dr. Livy Visano (Department of Social Science, York University, internal).

Following receipt of unit and decanal responses to the consultants' report, members of the Senate Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance reviewed the documentation and concluded that a meeting with the Dean and the Proponents was not required.

Program strengths:

The reviewers highlighted several strengths of the program:

- a richness of globally and locally relevant courses in Italian Studies as well as Italian Culture,
- an appropriate adaptability and responsiveness to needs of students, demonstrated by relatively positive feedback in the student survey
- a strong community to outreach and orientation,
- leadership in instituting new programs (first international BA)
- the development of an interdisciplinary Italian Culture by building on interconnections with other programs such as European Studies, Humanities, History and Fine Arts.

Opportunities for program enhancement:

- The program appears to have made considerable progress toward responding to the recommendations in the reviewers' report. Notably, in the 2011-2012 academic year, Italian Studies ensured



that most of their core courses were taught by tenured professors,

It would be appropriate to develop benchmarks and milestones as the Program considers and acts on recommendations made in this process, and in doing so

- build on the Program's commitment to maximizing curriculum innovations despite of and because of budget challenges for the Faculty and University
- give thought to more flexible course offering schedules (such as evening, weekend, and summer) while attentive to budgetary challenges for the Faculty and University

In general, the Program is encouraged to look for alternative ways to implement recommendations outlined in the Reviewers' report beyond additional appointments. **(It is noted, however, that the Associate Dean's response points to a number of ways in which the Program may be able to benefit from initiatives that are under consideration - iBA program participation, profiling of constituent programs, academic advising improvements, broadening access through timetabling and delivery innovations, a possible opportunity arising from emerging proposals to change the general education framework, and an overall space policy that seeks to expand and improve the settings for instruction and interaction).**

All programs must develop and submit Degree Level Expectations and Student Learning Outcomes/ Curriculum Mapping documents. The Sub-Committee joins me in asking that you make their completion and submission a priority.

Alice J Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic
June 11, 2013