

**Drama Studies/ Programme d'études d'art dramatique, Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Glendon**

**Cyclical Program Review – 2007 - 2014**

**Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan\_DRAFT**

**Reported to Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance:** June 6, 2016

**Program Description**

The Drama Studies Program (DRST) was created in 1996. It is located in the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies at Glendon College. DRST is a generalist program in drama and theatre that operates within the context of the Liberal Arts.

| Program | Accepts 2014 | Enrolment FTES 2014 | Degrees Awarded 2014    |
|---------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| BA      | 16           | 49                  | 6 (Hons); 5 (90-credit) |

**Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:**

Dr. Glen Nichols, Associate Professor, Director of Drama, Mount Allison University  
 Dr. Suzanne Langlois, Associate Professor, History Department, York University, Glendon campus

**Site Visit:** January 18, 2016

The reviewers met with Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost, Donald Ipperciel, Principal, Glendon College, Gabrielle Houle, Program coordinator (Drama Studies), Geoffrey Ewen, Chair, Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Drama Studies Program faculty members (full-time and part-time), Dany Savard, Librarian, Leslie Frost Library, staff members including the Technical coordinator of Theatre Glendon, the Assistant Technical Coordinator and the Manager of ITS. The reviewers also met with a cross-section of Drama Studies students. The reviewers toured the theatre and shop areas, a classroom in York Hall, as well as spaces used or considered for studio use.

**Outcome:**

The Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations. Progress on the recommendations will be included in the Follow-up Report due December 2017. The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in Fall 2022.

**Strengths:**

The reviewers listed the following strengths of the program:

- This program has vibrant, energetic, and engaged faculty and staff.
- There is palpable student enthusiasm for the program and its activities.
- The program provides a rich community learning environment that extends beyond the classroom and even beyond the physical walls of the college buildings.
- Innovative experiments in performance are a hallmark of the program.
- Glendon College boasts beautifully maintained production and performance space that is also used by many campus groups.
- This program's good reputation extends beyond Toronto, providing a solid program of liberal arts study of drama and theatre in a uniquely bilingual context where the



distinct but complementary intellectual and cultural traditions behind both English and French theatre and theatre scholarship are brought together.

In addition, the reviewers made special note of the fact that everyone in the program has impressive résumés of professional work, both academic and theatrical, but they also do terrific work with students (demonstrated by the students' unreserved praise for all staff and faculty) and, very key, have strong collegial relations with each other.

**Opportunities for Enhancement (selected)**

- There is a need for greater coherence between degree level expectations, program objectives, course learning comes.
- The DRST program should undertake, as part of their ongoing visioning process, a deep review of the program calendar including curriculum mapping, revision of courses and course descriptions, and clarification of learning outcomes in order to facilitate easier student access to and more effective delivery of the courses and DRST activities.
- The faculty complement and the administrative responsibilities need to be reviewed and clarified to ensure an adequate number of credits in DRST are offered each year, that an adequate full-time to part-time faculty ratio be maintained, and that part-time faculty have adequate time to devote to their own careers.
- Space for teaching and rehearsals is seriously compromised and a detailed plan for remediation is an urgent need.
- As the articulated transfer program with Collège Boréal takes effect, clear assessment markers be put in place in advance which allow Glendon to ensure the DRST program's liberal education values are the ones fully in control of the pedagogic agendas and that the pre-professional aspects remain complementary to the DRST core mission.

**Principal's Implementation Plan (selected)**

- The Program is ready to elaborate clear expectation for program curriculum and pedagogy to allow for curriculum mapping and a complete review of courses, course expectations and student learning outcomes.
- The recommendation to prioritize use of the Theatre Glendon space has already been completed and work is underway to establish clear protocols with the Athletic Centre administration for scheduling and use of the dance studio for teaching DRST studio courses, and potentially for rehearsal use as well. Discussions about other space, where feasible, are underway.
- A thorough analysis of administrative workload has already been undertaken, with the assistance and involvement of many stakeholders (faculty, assistants and managers). There are already plans to implement the recommendations of this study during the summer of 2016.
- The program has already undertaken actions to implement the very relevant recommendation that there be an exploration of the ways that drama work can be built on to enhance the language commitment of the Glendon experience. The Office of the Principal will support initiatives in this direction.

A number of the recommendations from the external reviewers related to budget were out of scope or not possible at this time and will not be followed up on. However, the Principal provides assurance in his plan that funding to the program will be maintained. In addition, it should be noted that, in practice, the working relationship between ITS and Theatre is productive and efficient. No further action related to this recommendation is required.

Alice J. Pitt

Vice-Provost Academic, York University