

York University

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Business and Society Undergraduate Program, Department of Social Science

Cyclical Program Review – 2008 to 2015

This Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the programs listed below.

Program(s) Reviewed

BA (Honours): Business and Society
BA, Business and Society

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

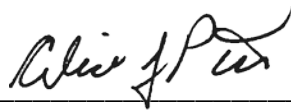
Dr. Fletcher Baragar, Associate Professor, Economics, University of Manitoba
Dr. Irene Henriques, Professor of Sustainability and Economics, Schulich School of Business, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones

Cyclical Program Review Launch: September 2015
Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 19, 2016
Date of the Site Visit: October 21, 2016
Review Report received: February 3, 2017
Program Response received: June 16, 2017
Dean's Response received: May 2018

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, May 2018

Submitted by Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic, York University



This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2013.

Outcome:

An implementation plan has been approved that addresses the recommendations.

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance concurred with the recommendation of the Vice-Provost Academic that a post-CPR review involving the Department of Social Science is required in light of the departmental omnibus statement and the Dean's statement on departmental challenges. The outcomes of this departmental review, which will be undertaken collaboratively with the Office of the Vice-Provost, the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and the Department, will form part of the 18 month program Follow-up Report for Business and Society as well as other programs housed in the Department. The Follow-up Report will provide an update on specific aspects of the implementation plan resulting from the cyclical program review as well as any further recommendations or action plans made in consideration of the Departmental Review.

The Follow-up Report will be due 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (January 2020).

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2023 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2024 or Winter of 2025.

Program Description and Strengths:

The BA program in Business and Society (BUSO) program was established in 1999 as a multidisciplinary program. Overtime the program has changed from a multidisciplinary to an interdisciplinary program and streams have been developed on a thematic rather than disciplinary basis. The current stream options offered are:

- Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility
- The Environment
- The Firm and Organization
- The Global Economy
- Law and Governance
- The Social Economy

The reviewers noted that in addition to the statements regarding program objectives for students that are posted on the website and expanded upon in the self-study document, the program also includes statements concerning general objectives for researchers and teachers in the program. The program goals and commitments are consistently aligned with the university, Faculty and departmental missions and plans.

The reviewers noted that this is a unique interdisciplinary program and stated, "As a result, it defines, rather than reflects, the current state of this field." They noted that the structure of the programs is "sound and efficacious".

The Reviewer's Report commented on the strength of the BUSO faculty members, "The faculty is very active on the research front. Publications are numerous, with both national and international reach and with a visible presence in the top ranked journals

in the appropriate fields.”

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Implementation Plan identifies actions that are to be undertaken in order to address the recommendations. In some instances, the plan does not specify actions, responsible parties or timelines

Recommendation 1: Leave the teaching of the core economics courses to the Department of Economics.

No action required: the program and dean responses are adequate

Recommendation 2: Eliminate the Environment stream and thereby reduce the number of streams from six to five. Serious consideration should be given to the possibility of paring this number further, leaving four streams in the program.

Program to provide a report that outlines a plan with respect to streams that includes a 3-year history of major enrolments in each stream, recommended course of action, and analysis of the implications for core courses taught by BUSO or provided by other programs. Due before the end of Fall 2018

Recommendation 3: Prioritize the provision of additional in-house courses for the remaining streams, ensuring that each stream has its own introductory course, and its own fourth year culminating course, offered by BUSO faculty.

This recommendation is linked to #2 above but is more global in reach and draws attention to the need to focus curriculum development on strengths of program members.

Program to plan a retreat to take place by mid-November with a report due in January 2019. Both the retreat and recommendations emerging from it to be developed in consultation with Associate Dean Programs.

Recommendation 4: Scrupulously adhere to admission standards, in particular the achievement of an academic average in the mid-70s for high school graduates.

The Associate Dean Programs to work with the program to develop a 3-year plan to increase the admissions average for the program and align recruitment efforts to meet goals. Associate Dean Programs and BUOS to meet by mid-November 2018.

Recommendation 5: Review and reform the advising process for students at the recruitment and admission stage, to ensure that students do not end up in the BUSO program by default.

No action required:

Recommendation 6: Pursue discussions and consultations at the department and faculty level to ensure that adequate space (perhaps through registration priority) is given to BUSO students for core and required stream courses that are offered by other units.

No action required: the program and dean responses are adequate

Recommendation 7: Improve tutorial and numeracy support for BUSO students in core economics and statistics courses, either through consultation with those departments, or by pushing the Faculty to develop a Numeracy Centre to assist students.

No action required: the program and dean responses are adequate

Recommendation 8: Improve the quality of tutorial and TA services for BUSO students, possibly through additional training and workshops for BUSO TAs.

Associate Deans Programs and Faculty Relations, in consultation with York University Faculty Relations, to discuss and implement approaches to supporting TA development within BUSO and Social Science.

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

Recommendation 9: Improve student awareness of and knowledge about the various certificate programs that complement the individual BUSO streams. Ensure that these features are easy to discover by interested browsers visiting the program's web site.

No action required: the program and dean responses are adequate

Recommendation 10: A system needs to be instituted to assure better tracking of BUSO grads and especially for graduates from the Honours Program.

Vice Provost Academic, on behalf of all Faculties to resume discussion with Alumni Affairs in order to advance collaborative efforts to track graduating students and seek their input on their York experience\Fall/Winter 2018-2019:

Recommendation 11: Develop and implement a MA degree program.

No action required: there are university and faculty processes in place should the program seek to develop a master's program. The Dean's Office, the Office of the Vice Provost Academic and the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies are available to provide advice on feasibility and proposal development.

Recommendation 12: Proceed with a proposal for establishment of an independent Department of Business and Society. Ensure that sufficient administrative support is available.

No action required: there are Faculty and University processes in place should the

program seek to create a separate department. The Dean's Office, the Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic and the Academic Planning, Policy and Research Committee of Senate are available to provide advice, develop expectations for pursuing the possibility and determining what administrative support can be provided.