

Two-Year Progress Report

History (BA, Minor, Specialization)

June 2022

Background

In accordance with the University of Waterloo's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation and the internal response of the Department of History. A self-study (Volume I, II, III) was submitted to the Associate Vice-President, Academic on September 28, 2018. The self-study (Volume I) presented the program descriptions and learning outcomes, an analytical assessment of the programs, including the data collected from a student survey, along with the standard data package prepared by the Office of Institutional Analysis & Planning (IAP). The CVs for each faculty member with a key role in the delivery of the program(s) were included in Volume II of the self-study.

A site visit with two arm's-length external reviewers, Dr. David Wright, Professor of History & Classical Studies, McGill University, and Dr. Dominique Marshall, Professor of History, Carleton University, was conducted in December 2018.

A total of five recommendations were provided by the reviewers, touching on curricular and governance improvements, and increased support for the program. In response, the program created a plan outlining the specific actions proposed to address each recommendation as well as a timeline for implementation. The next cyclical review for this program is scheduled for 2024-2025.

Enrollment over the past two years

	General	Honours	Co-op	Grad	Minors
2021-2022 (CURRENT YR)	9	49	38	66	51
2020-2021 (LAST YR)	14	49	32	63	49

Progress on Implementation Plan Recommendations

- 1) *First, we would encourage the Department to 'rally around' the Co-Op as a program that sets the Department apart from regional competitors. We also advise that the Faculty of Arts monitor the viability of the stand-alone Honours BA over the next seven years.*

Status: **in progress**

Details: We have continued to publicize and grow our Co-op stream since it began in 2017, and it has attracted more students since the program review in 2019. The Co-Op stream is a department priority, and will continue to be so for the duration of this review cycle. Our Honours BA (by which we interpreted the reviewers mean the Honours degree without co-op, as of course co-op students also do Honours degrees) has also grown since 2019 despite our FTE complement declining. We are pleased by this growth, and will continue to attract additional students over the next five years through our diversifying course offerings.

- 2) *Second, we recommend the formalization and standardization of departmental governance, including a regular monthly slot blocked out (by the Registrar's Office/Scheduling) for department meetings, a small number of department committees, and the inclusion of AFIW faculty members on those committees.*

Status: **completed**

Details: Department meetings have always been held on a monthly basis. We schedule them after each term's teaching schedule comes out, as we have no control at the department level of the university scheduling process. We have created a department committee on by-laws, and have continued to convene our department graduate committee. We do not have a standing undergraduate curriculum committee as the program's administration is carried out by our Undergraduate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator, but have had periodic curriculum committees in the past to discuss revising curriculum, and will do so again. Finally, AFIW colleagues have always participated in department undergraduate deliberations. This practice continues.

- 3) *Third, we encourage the department to continue to tailor existing and new course offerings to complement the strengths of the University. Pursuant to this, we would also advise a more strategic use of sessional contracts in order to fill the gaps in geographical and temporal coverage in course offerings rather than simply replace the courses usually offered by regular tenure- stream faculty.*

Status: **completed**

Details: The department has long sought to tailor some of our courses to overall University strengths, and has continued to do so since 2019. An example is an expanded suite of public and digital history courses, which align with the University's strength in experiential learning. The department rejected the recommendation to diversify the curriculum explicitly through the use of sessional instructors on the grounds that we do not control the sessional budget. That said, when sessional funds are available, and contingent on other teaching resource factors, we have endeavoured to hire sessionals

to offer new or existing courses on subjects not otherwise taught (for instance, our course on the history of South Asia).

- 4) *Fourth, we believe the Faculty of Arts should consider seriously a reorganization of the support staff, moving towards a pooled system of administrative support. The current system of two staff supporting a small department does not appear to be working.*

Status: **NA**

Details: This recommendation is beyond the control of the Department. The recommendation was brought to the Dean's attention. The decision as to whether to adopt a pooled system of administrative support would be made at the decanal level if they so wished.

- 5) *Fifth, we don't believe that one position in the 'rest of the world' will likely resolve the emphasis on Western European/North American history of the Modern era. We would recommend, then, future hires that are both geographically reinforcing of existing strengths in Western (Euro-North American) history while having a research focus (and upper year teaching interest) in the history of science and technology (or interest in Science and Technology Studies).*

Status: **in progress**

Details: The department has hired two tenure-track historians since the review – one in Indigenous history, one in Black Canadian history – replacing retired colleagues in medical history, the history of human rights, and European history. If and when the department is granted future hires, we will take this recommendation under consideration.

Explain any circumstances that have altered the original implementation plan

Three tenured colleagues retired in 2020 (Heather MacDougall, Lynne Taylor, James Walker). Only two of these positions have been replaced to date, both at the end of Fall term 2021. Covid has also constrained our ability to implement our plan, as the delivery of our current undergraduate curriculum was the priority for faculty members switching to remote teaching.

Address any significant developments or initiatives that have arisen since the program review process, or that were not contemplated during the review

Two tenure-track faculty have been hired, starting in January 2022. We are thus smaller by one member compared to when the review took place. Two faculty have also taken on full-time administrative roles at the university, meaning three of our twenty faculty members are not

teaching in the department at present. We do have two Definite Term Lecturer positions for which we are hiring in 2022 as temporary replacements for two colleagues seconded to Associate Vice President roles.

Report on anything else you believe is appropriate to bring to Senate concerning this program

We have made good progress on implementing our plans in response to the review over the past two years, especially in the context of Covid.

Updated Implementation Plan

	Recommendations	Proposed Actions	Responsibility for Leading and Resourcing (if applicable) the Actions	Timeline for addressing Recommendations
1.	<i>First, we would encourage the Department to ‘rally around’ the Co-Op as a program that sets the Department apart from regional competitors. We also advise that the Faculty of Arts monitor the viability of the stand-alone Honours BA over the next seven years.</i>	Prioritize co-op stream	Department Chair and Associate Chair Undergraduate	In progress. We have committed to publicize the History co-op stream at Arts recruiting events, as well as information sessions and outreach with current students. We plan to continue doing so in upcoming years, and to continue to work with the Co-op office to aid our students in finding placements.
2.	<i>Second, we recommend the formalization and standardization of departmental governance, including a regular monthly slot blocked out (by the Registrar’s Office/Scheduling) for department meetings, a small number of department committees, and the inclusion of AFIW faculty members on those committees.</i>	Establish additional standing committees	Department Chair	Completed
3.	<i>Third, we encourage the department to continue to tailor existing and new</i>	Continue to offer courses that align	Department Chair	In progress . We assign sessional instructors where we are provided with them to cover a balance of courses in

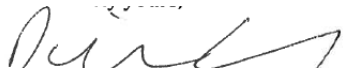
	<i>course offerings to complement the strengths of the University. Pursuant to this, we would also advise a more strategic use of sessional contracts in order to fill the gaps in geographical and temporal coverage in course offerings rather than simply replace the courses usually offered by regular tenure- stream faculty.</i>	with University strengths	(allocation of teaching duties) and faculty members (teaching of courses)	geographical and temporal areas not covered by regular faculty members, and to teach core program courses that are usually taught by full-time faculty when the latter are on leave. We have always tried to strike this balance, and re-committed ourselves to doing so upon receipt of this reviews.
4	<i>Fourth, we believe the Faculty of Arts should consider seriously a reorganization of the support staff, moving towards a pooled system of administrative support. The current system of two staff supporting a small department does not appear to be working.</i>	The Chair communicated this recommendation to the Dean of Arts. We anticipate any reform of the staffing model will come from the Office of the Dean. The Department itself is not in favour of a pooled system.	N/A	N/A

5	<p><i>Fifth, we don't believe that one position in the 'rest of the world' will likely resolve the emphasis on Western European/North American history of the Modern era. We would recommend, then, future hires that are both geographically reinforcing of existing strengths in Western (Euro-North American) history while having a research focus (and upper year teaching interest) in the history of science and technology (or interest in Science and Technology Studies).</i></p>	<p>Consider these fields when future hires are authorized. Two Definite Term Lectureships have been authorized for 2022, and the Department will conduct searches for these positions this year.</p>	<p>DACA and Department Chair</p>	<p>To be determined in consultation with Dean of Arts.</p>
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The Department Chair/Director, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.

Date of next program review: _____ 2024-2025 _____

Signatures of Approval:



13/01/2022

Chair/Director

Date

AFIW Administrative Dean/Head (For AFIW programs only)

Date



17/01/2023

Faculty Dean

Date

Note: AFIW programs fall under the Faculty of ARTS; however, the Dean does not have fiscal control nor authority over staffing and administration of the program.



October 2, 2022

Associate Vice-President, Academic
(For undergraduate and augmented programs)

Date

Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
(For graduate and augmented programs)

Date
