



DATE: June 29, 2017

TO: John Shepherd
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

FROM: Susan Harada
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Program Head – Journalism

CC: André Plourde
Dean, Faculty of Public Affairs

RE: Cyclical Review of the Bachelor of Journalism Program – Update on Action Plan Implementation

As requested by the Carleton University Committee on Quality Assurance (CUCQA), the School of Journalism and Communication's Journalism program is submitting an update on its new admissions/promotions process as well as confirmation of the process for the implementation of related adjustments to the BJ-BHum degree.

BJ Admissions

The Journalism program's progress report of July 17, 2015, and subsequent update report of June 28, 2016, provided background about its longtime BJ admissions practice, and outlined plans for how admissions/promotions would change for the Fall 2017 cohort.

These changes have been implemented. The key points include:

- A target of 130 students for admission into first year (120 BJ/10 BJ-BHum);
- Promotion into second year with the successful completion of 4.0 credits, including JOUR 1001 and JOUR 1002, by the end of the winter session of the first year;
- An Academic Performance Evaluation (APE) standard similar to that of the Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management (BPAPM), which stipulates that students will be in Good Standing at the first APE if they have a Major CGPA of at least B- and an overall CGPA of at least B⁻¹.

Data from previous years could not be reliably applied to guide practices around the revised admissions process, which began in Spring 2017. As a result, the number of

¹ For full details of the Journalism program's new Academic Performance Evaluation process, please consult the 2017-2018 Undergraduate Calendar

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/undergradprograms/journalism/#regulationstext>

offers/confirmations as of the date of this report points to a larger first-year class than intended (124 BJ/20 BJ-BHum).

The impact of a first-year intake of 144 on Journalism's resources in the second year and beyond remains to be seen. It should be remembered that the program is currently resourced for a second-year intake of approximately 110 students, given that the pedagogical quality of our professional program in the upper years depends on smaller intensive hands-on workshops and experiential learning-based labs.

As noted in the 2016 update report, the Office of Institutional Research and Planning (OIRP) projected that a 130-strong first-year cohort would translate into approximately 105 students in second year (leaving room for five transfer students for a total of 110), but warned that it will be impossible to reliably predict retention until sufficient annual data is compiled. The 2016 update also pointed out that "it will be crucial for the program to have the support of the university with respect to resources," should retention prove to be more successful than forecast.

Adjustments to the BJ-BHum Degree

Our colleagues in the College of Humanities have been collegial partners as Journalism implements its necessary program changes. To reprise the background provided in the 2016 update report:

With the change to BJ admissions will come a necessary adjustment to intake for the BJ-Humanities degree. Again, the Journalism program has been grateful for its collaboration with Humanities; however, our future structure makes it necessary to return to our original agreement of a maximum of 10 BJ-Humanities students each year as of Fall 2017. Some of our anticipated curricular changes, for example, including the presentation of more options for Journalism students in the upper years, will depend on ensuring they can take advantage of a range of Special Topics courses. It is also beneficial for our students to have the flexibility to develop their knowledge and expertise in areas beyond Journalism and the Humanities, hence the program requirement that 4.0 credits be taken in a field other than Journalism.

Ahead of the formal implementation process, there were discussions with our Humanities colleagues about Journalism's necessary admissions and curricular changes as of Fall 2017 and beyond. Our colleagues noted they were prepared to be supportive of the Journalism program's plans.