

**Applied Language and Discourse Studies**  
**Update on Unit Response to External Reviewers' Report & Action Plan**  
**Programs Being Reviewed: BA and PhD Programs**  
**Approved by Dean: include title/date**

**Note: This document is made available for public posting on the Vice- Provost's website.**

Action Item	Owner & Timeline	Progress Update January 2020	Will the action described require calendar changes? (Y or N)
1. Hire administrative staff to run the practicum and help with student advising.	<i>School Director will consult with the Dean of FASS.</i>	<i>This was sent forward as part of the School's budget submission to the Dean of FASS in December 2019. It was subsequently taken forward by the Dean. We await news of the results.</i>	<i>N</i>
2. Explore ways of running directed reading courses with multiple students, rather than individual meetings.	<i>PhD Committee.</i>	<i>This has been implemented by several Faculty members.</i>	<i>N</i>
3. Provide formal recognition for these directed reading courses as extra or as part of regular teaching load.	<i>School Director will consult with the Dean of FASS.</i>	<i>This is not necessary at the PhD level. At the MA level, new courses are being created starting as Special Topics/Directed Reading as faculty strength improves.</i>	<i>Y (new courses at some future date)</i>
4. Provide formal recognition for graduate student supervision as extra or regular load teaching.	<i>School Director will consult with the Dean of FASS.</i>	<i>No developments.</i>	<i>N</i>

<p>5. That the administration consider allowing faculty in ALDS to team teach some graduate courses in their specialty areas so that more varied offerings are available to graduate students and faculty can get credit for teaching part of a course (or their turn being the primary instructor of a team-taught course) without also compromising their regular teaching load.</p>	<p><i>School Director, Graduate Committee ALDS.</i></p>	<p><i>This has proven to be less of an issue as new courses are being developed as Special Topics/Directed Readings</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>6. Hire another support staff to assist with advising and to assume responsibility for developing and administering practicum placements in the graduate program(s).</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with the Dean of FASS.</i></p>	<p><i>See item #1 above</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>7. Amalgamate both halves of the ALDS programs in one physical location.</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with Dean of FASS to inform the Space Allocation Committee.</i></p>	<p><i>Some movement is likely as the new building for Sprott School of Business opens in 2021. Extra space in St. Patrick's Building may help SLAS consolidate degree programs more. As well, renovations to Paterson Hall after that date will perhaps open more space for amalgamation.</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>8. Expand office and classroom space to provide adequate resources for classroom meetings and instructor/graduate student office space.</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with Dean of FASS to inform the Space Allocation Committee.</i></p>	<p><i>See item #7 above</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>

<p>9. Renovate some of the existing space so that it can function more flexibly (e.g., Room 337 in the St. Patrick Building).</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with Dean of FASS to inform the Space Allocation Committee.</i></p>	<p><i>See item # 7 above</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>10. Develop or purchase a platform to allow instructors to host the large files (video and data files) associated with the multimodal assignments characteristic of all aspect of these programs. Make sure that faculty and students are given sufficient space to store such large files.</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with Teaching and Learning Services Manager.</i></p>	<p><i>No movement. This issue is being dealt with more by the Linguistics programs than ALDS. With the start of graduate programs in Linguistics, and increased effort to conduct research on endangered languages, the Linguistics programs are in the process of determining suitable platforms to house large amounts of multimedia data, and to secure dedicated laboratory space.</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>11. Create a second multimedia computer classroom for which ALDS courses have priority of use since a primary focus of the programs is in multimodal communication. Consideration should also be given to improving remote access (via the Cloud) to specialized software required by students and faculty as part of various ALDS courses.</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with Dean of FASS to inform the Space Allocation Committee.</i></p>	<p><i>See item #7 above.</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>12. Purchase an app such as Zoon to facilitate fully synchronous or blended online meetings of courses.</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with Teaching and Learning Services Manager.</i></p>	<p><i>Completed. Various Zoom licenses are available to ALDS faculty.</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>

13. Ensure that faculty and students receive training in how to access and use various software packages, platforms, apps	<i>School Director will consult with Teaching and Learning Services Manager.</i>	<i>Ongoing.</i>	<i>N</i>
14. Consider making the PhD practicum shorter, more flexible, or optional.	<i>Rejected by the PhD Committee.</i>	<i>No changes. The decision was not unanimous, but some committee members see the praxis component of the program as a unique feature which sets the program apart from other s and may make it attractive to prospective students. They resisted any plans to make changes to it.</i>	<i>N</i>
15. A course focusing on research methodology in ALDS disciplines be developed and offered regularly to ensure students are well prepared to undertake research which will allow them to complete their dissertations.	<i>Graduate Committee.</i>	<i>Revisions to the content of PhD courses 6101/6102 take this into account.</i>	<i>N</i>
16. Institute mandatory annual meeting between supervisor and PhD student to ensure satisfactory progress in reaching program milestones	<i>Completed by PhD Committee</i>	<i>This is being done.</i>	<i>N</i>
17. That the trajectory of the graduates of the ALDS PhD be tracked and that brief bios be posted on the program website to give applicants a sense of the diverse professional pathways of the graduates.	<i>PhD Committee</i>	<i>This is being done.</i>	<i>N</i>

<p>18. Develop a plan for hiring additional faculty to address expanded program offerings and potential requirements of senior faculty. Perhaps create one (or more) positions at the associate professor level to address the upcoming loss of experienced senior faculty.</p>	<p><i>ALDS Committee, Director of SLALS</i></p>	<p><i>Two new positions have been staffed due to retirements and resignations. Both are at Assistant Professor level and in areas of growth and need.</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>19. Institute a mandatory check for each student to ensure he/she is progressing toward degree program completion.</p>	<p><i>Completed by PhD Committee</i></p>	<p><i>This is being done.</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>20. That the University consider “reclaiming” this program (intensive ESL) from the private provider so that the ALDS community can benefit from access to the intensive program while the intensive program also becomes richer as well</p>	<p><i>School Director will consult with the Global Academy, Dean of FASS, Provost.</i></p>	<p><i>A new program is being developed by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences., to open in 2021 with ALDS staffing and academic oversight.</i></p>	<p><i>N (non-credit)</i></p>