

Action Plan Progress Report Summary

French – BA and MA programs

The CUCQA memo of August 19, 2016 requested follow-up on three outstanding items: student participation in the Seminar in Quebec City; the implementation of the exchange agreement with Université Laval; and an update on measures taken to support faculty members in their attempts to secure research funding. Each of these items have been addressed in the June 30, 2017 report provided by the department of French. The original action plan is not included in this binder as the outstanding items were additional requests from CUCQA.

Date: June 21st, 2017

To: Dr. John Shepherd, outgoing Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic);
ourgoing Chair, Carleton University Committee on Quality Assurance
Dr. Lorraine Dike, incoming Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic);
incoming Chair, Carleton University Committee on Quality Assurance

Cc: Dr. Jerry Tomberlin, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Dr. Wallace Clement, Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Dr. Richard Mann, Associate Dean (Curriculum, Programs and Planning), Faculty of Arts
and Social Sciences
Dr. Catherine Khordoc, incoming Chair (French)
Dr. Matthias Neufang, Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
Dr. Adrian Chan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
Dr. André Loiselle, Assistant Vice-President (Academic)
Christina Noja, Manager (acting), Office of the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-
President (Academic)
Tiffany Douglas, Program Review Officer, Office of the Vice-Provost and Associate
Vice-President (Academic)

From: Dr. Pascal Gin, Chair, Department of French

This report is the fourth departmental response and update to CUCQA's follow-up on the Action Plan implementation process following the 2014 outcome of the last Cyclical Review for the BA and MA in French/French and Francophone Studies. It addresses the remaining issues raised in CUCQA's last response, dated August 19th, 2016.

Further collaboration with CURO with regards to non-tricouncil research funding (item #2) involved a meeting with Dr. Mike Brklacich (Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, FASS), Darlene Gilson (FASS Research Facilitator and Development and Training Manager), and departmental faculty members involved with research. The need to seek assistance and collaboration so as to better identify non-tricouncil research funding opportunities was raised, in the context of the comprehensive cross-sectional scan of departmental research orientations previously provided to CURO. Faculty members continue to seek such opportunities with a demonstrated measure of success both for faculty and graduate students (with grants from the Fonds France Canada pour la recherche and Mitacs).

Further details sought with respect to participation in the Québec City summer seminar (item #4)

require some context that may not have been fully available in the previous documentation. While the unit's BA and MA programs develop and/or require the acquisition of French language at an advanced level, their focus is on providing university training in two areas of French Studies, French literatures and French linguistics. It follows that all upper-year and graduate seminars engage students with research in either one of these two academic disciplines. These seminars are not language courses. This equally applies to the Québec City summer seminar (FREN 4300/5301), which, as a rule, targets on location early literary production in New-France and includes archival consultation and visits to collections of cultural artifacts. Providing as it does experiential research engagement with topics in French Studies, the seminar is of tremendous relevance to the training of undergraduate and graduate majors. However, the pool of Carleton students meeting expectations and prerequisites (sound ability to function academically in French for the former, adequate training in literary studies for the latter), but also willing to commit to an off-site summer course is small. Offering the course to non-Carleton students meeting both criteria has been a mean to sustain registration at the required level so as to make this learning opportunity viable for our own students. It has also proved to be an extremely meaningful way to showcase, beyond Carleton, our programs, course offerings and academic strengths in the area of French Studies. The seminar is an invaluable recruitment opportunity targeted at non-Carleton students (it generated one domestic graduate registration for the current cycle). For all these reasons, stressing the impact on non-Carleton students is highly relevant.

After thorough review, the exchange agreement with Université Laval (item # 5) will not be pursued in the immediate future. Available resources for strategic planning are simply not adequate at this point in time to address the faculty-to-faculty bilateral exchange agreement Laval insisted upon rather than the unit-focused letter-of-permission approach initially contemplated. Compared to student services offered at Laval, the lack of housing flexibility for single-term residence at Carleton and the much higher rates practised by our housing services are significant deterrents that would also need to be looked into in the context of such an exchange initiative.

The topic of duly informed and responsible management of TA resources by the unit (item # 7) was addressed in the Department's interim report dated August 19th, 2017.