UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW (UPR)
REPORT ON: HISTORY
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS
March 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Review Preparation

In preparing this document, the Program Development Committee reviewed the following: History Self-Study (SS) (2013/14), the report of the external reviewers (ER) (April 2014), the response from the Head (May 2014), and the response from the Dean (July 2014) to the above material. The external reviewers were: Prof. Joan Sangster, Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies, Trent University, Prof. James Naylor, Department of History, Brandon University, and, Prof. Lydia Miljan, Department of Political Science, University of Windsor.

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

At the undergraduate level, the Department offers a Bachelor of Arts (General) in History and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History). Students also have the option of combining their Honours History major with a major from another discipline.

The Department offers a Minor in History, as well as Major and Minor Concentrations for the Bachelor of Arts and Science.

At the graduate level, the Department offers a Master of Arts in History.

Enrolments

Undergraduate

	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Full-Time	254.65	247.55	220.45	171.90	141.28
Part-Time	56.55	68.85	44.66	44.5	32

Graduate

	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
MSc Full-Time	31	29	31	28	22
MSc Part-Time	1	0	0	1	1

Human Resources

Faculty/Instructors

Tenure/tenure-track faculty	11 (including Associate Vice-President, Academic)
Sessional Lecturers (continuous 8 month positions)	2
Faculty members involved in graduate program delivery	11

Full/Part-time Staff

Secretaries	1.5

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (with Implementation Plan)

Significant Strengths of the Programs
"Since the last review, the Department has been engaged in a process of re-structuring, building a strong ethos of research activity, collaborative departmental work, and innovating with new course delivery. Recruitment of new faculty has diversified the curriculum". The development of mentorship activities – integrating student mentors into the first-year core course to help new students transition to university and provide upper-level students with leadership skills; mentoring graduate students as they present papers at conferences or for publication – is a significant strength of the programs and helps foster a sense of community. (SS, p.103, 104) "There is a collegial and collaborative atmosphere in terms of the labour of teaching and service, and a shared, strong commitment to creating an excellent, student-focused educational experience." (ER, pp.9,1) There are clear program-level learning outcomes that articulate well to the University's learning outcomes and the Department is ensuring that learning outcomes at all levels and in all courses are clearly laid out. (ER, p.1) Retention is high which speaks to the level of student engagement and undergraduate and graduate student experience. (ER, p.9)

Opportunities for Program Improvement/Enhancements
The department should continue to review its curriculum on a regular basis to ensure needed changes are made in a timely way. The area is encouraged to pursue areas of improvement which it identified, including: the possibility of collaborating with other departments on program offerings increasing the opportunity for undergraduate student research, and encouraging diversification of topics for graduate theses (SS, pp.106-107) Further opportunities for program improvements are captured in the recommendations listed below.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Recommendations (in priority order)
(Final recommendations arrived at by the Program Development Committee, following a review and assessment of the External Reviewers report, the Head's response and the Dean's response.)

Graduate and Undergraduate

Recommendation 1: That the Department work with the Dean to develop strategies to address the teaching and resource needs of the programs.
Agents: Department Head, Dean of FAHSS
Completion by: Fall 2018

Graduate

Recommendation 2: That the Department examine its graduate program with a view to improving and enhancing its standards and attracting quality students. Among others, consideration should be given to:
• examining and enhancing what is taught in the two required courses,
• making sure reading and writing demands are consistently rigorous,
• moving towards a six course degree
• raising the admission average to 77%
• adding directed reading options
• introducing formal "progress reports"
• developing recruitment strategy aimed at attracting students from outside the local area.
Agents: Department Head, Department Council
Completion by: Fall 2018

<u>Undergraduate</u>

Recommendation 3: That better and more discipline specific training be provided for mentors working in the first-year undergraduate course (43-110), as well as for departmental GAs.
Agents: Department Head
Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 4: That the undergraduate curriculum be re-examined for minor modification, perhaps removing one required first-year course and having one required second year course instead. Part of this re-examination would be the development of an agreed on set of critical reading and writing expectations for each level of the undergraduate curriculum, and particularly for the core courses such as 43-110, 43-111 and 43-303.
Agents: Department Head, Department Council
Completion by: Fall 2016

Recommendation 5: That the Department introduce a full-year, fourth-year capstone course that is research intensive, offering students important skills they can identify as 'transferable' to the job market.
Agents: Department Head, Department Council
Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 6: That the Department submit learning outcomes and assessment methods for each of its courses that clearly correspond to the University's stated "Characteristics of a University of Windsor Graduate".
Agents: Department Council, Head, CTL, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning
Completion by: Fall 2016