



**Anthropology
Final Assessment Report**

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Faculty of Social Sciences
Degrees Offered	B. A.
Modules Reviewed	
External Consultants	Drs. John Barker, (Anthropology, UBC) & Pamela R. Willoughby (Anthropology, U of A.)
Internal Reviewers	Dr. Douglas L. Jones, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Date of Site Visit	February 9, 2017
Evaluation	Good Quality
Approval Dates	SUPR-U: May 24, 2017 SCAPA: May 31, 2017 Senate: June 9, 2017

Executive Summary

The reviewers felt the Department of Anthropology has an excellent reputation nationally and abroad for both its undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition, it has considerable optimism expressed by both faculty and students regarding the future of their programs. Although the undergraduate program was felt to offer excellent learning environments for students, the reviewers were concerned due to the impending retirements of several faculty, albeit some of this is offset with the recent hires and more are planned. This was the only area where their comments were considered as substantive related to the ongoing stability of the excellence of the program. The remaining 8 recommendations were stated to be “. . . intended to suggest ways to improve upon an already excellent program and to address some of the concerns and recommendations we heard from undergraduate students.”

Significant Strengths of the Program

The reviewers “. . . were impressed by faculty efforts to provide undergraduates with opportunities for hands on research, . . . has organized a model international ethnographic field school in Madagascar under the leadership of Dr. Andrew Walsh as well as an archaeological field school in Peru directed by Dr. Jean-François Millaire and, in 2016, an ethnographic field school in Argentina organized by Dr. Adriana Premat. Many of the regular courses include opportunities for practical experience, beginning with lab tutorials in the first-year general and later biological and archaeological courses as well as methods courses. Several of the online courses include experiential exercises to give students a sense of how anthropologists conduct research. In addition, the department has recently developed three special topics courses that engage undergraduate students in local archaeological and ethnographic projects. The surveys of recent and current undergraduates conducted for the self-study indicate that these efforts are greatly appreciated by the students and that there is a considerable desire for more.

In light of the moderate size of the Department, the four major fields of anthropology are unusually well-represented, giving undergraduate students a comprehensive sense of the discipline while allowing for a degree of concentration depending on their personal interests. All of the full-time faculty possess PhDs. In reviewing faculty CVs, we have been impressed by the high level of research engagement and productivity of the tenured faculty.”

Suggestions for Improvement & Enhancement

Of the 8 additional recommendations, there are only 4 that may have particular relevance to SUPR-U, the remainder are really discussion items for the Department.

1. Reduce the number of modules: It was felt that there were too many modular offerings for the size of the Department and the interests of the program and this has also lead to confusion of the students. The department felt this was not a problem due to counselling and wished to maintain the modules.
2. To enhance undergraduate enrolment, work with the Dean of Social Sciences to increase visibility of anthropology courses and consider making more of the 2nd year course as a service course not requiring pre-requisites. The Department responded that they are working with the Dean to increase visibility and there are revised 2nd year courses which meet this suggested need
3. There were some recommendations related to the experiential learning. The concern is to ensure there continue to be strong faculty involvement to allow these offerings, particularly with the upcoming retirement of Dr. Larkin. The Department has a new hire who will be involved in these offerings and is implementing additional opportunities for field courses, including local which will facilitate student availability.
4. To enhance cross fertilization, the Department was recommended to coordinate with the Department of Classical Studies for scheduling archeology course offerings, as some students interested in both have time-table conflicts. The Department responded that they are in discussions with Classical Studies to provide options.

Recommendations Required for Program Sustainability

Recommendation	Responsibility
Faculty complement with impending retirements particularly in sociocultural anthropology	Chair/Dean