



**HUC ECONOMICS
Final Assessment Report**

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Huron University College
Degrees Offered	B.A
Modules Reviewed	Honors Specialization in Economics Major in Economics Major in Finance Minor in Economic Theory
External Consultants	Dr. Marcelo Arbex, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Windsor Dr. Robert Dimand, Professor of Economics, Brock University
Internal Reviewers	Dr. Donna M. Rogers, Vice-Principal and Academic Dean Brescia University College Student Internal Reviewer: Noel Platte
Date of Site Visit	March 1-2, 2017
Evaluation	Good Quality
Approval Dates	SUPR-U: May 24, 2017 SCAPA: May 31, 2017 Senate: June 9, 2017

Executive Summary

The program review of Economics at Huron University College commenced in the fall of 2016 with the notable work that went into the Department's Self-Study, completed on December 1. Two external consultants were proposed and approved: Dr. Marcelo Arbex, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Windsor and Dr. Robert Dimand, Professor, Department of Economics, Brock University. The Internal Reviewer was selected from the decanal ranks at Brescia or King's, as is the practice for reviews of Affiliate University College programs; for the present review the Internal Reviewer was Dr. Donna M. Rogers, Professor of Spanish, Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Brescia University College.

The formal review took place over two days, March 1 and 2, 2017, when Drs. Arbex and Dimand were onsite at Huron. Dr. Rogers was present for many of their meetings. During their campus visit, the consultants met with (all from Huron unless otherwise noted):

- Karen Campbell, Vice-Provost, Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty, Western University
- Barry Craig, Principal
- Paul Nesbitt-Larking, Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Brendan Murphy, Chair, Economics
- Economics Faculty
- Economics Students
- Academic Advisors
- Educational Policy Committee
- Melanie Mills, Director, Library and Learning Services
- Colleen Burgess, Research & Instructional Services
- Catharine Dishke Hondzel, Coordinator, Research and Learning Support
- Audra Bowlus, Chair, Department of Economics, Western University
- Meagan Vande Vooren, Director, Recruitment and Admissions
- Britney Podolinsky, FASS Administrative Assistant

The External Consultants' report found that the Economics program at Huron is "of comparable quality to those offered at similar institutions in Canada." Within the context of a broader decline in enrolments at Huron, Economics has seen lower enrolments in recent years; nevertheless, both the Department and the College are taking steps to increase enrolments generally and within programs. The External Consultants made a number of recommendations, which were assessed thoughtfully by the Department and the Acting Dean; their responses were invaluable in the incorporation of the Externals' recommendations into this Assessment Report under either "Suggestions for Improvement & Enhancement" or "Required for Program Sustainability."

Significant Strengths of the Program

- High quality of learning
- Dedicated faculty
- Small class sizes
- Strong student engagement and satisfaction

Suggestions for Improvement & Enhancement

- Within broader Huron processes of strategic planning (faculty renewal, enrolment plan), consider appointing a fifth full-time faculty member in Economics
- Develop reading courses and/or special topics courses to broaden content offerings
- Be attentive to possible overdependence on a single-country source of international students in the program
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with Huron colleagues (Writing Services, Library, Student Support Services) to strengthen academic writing skills for Economics students

Recommendations Required for Program Sustainability

Recommendation	Responsibility
Appoint one new tenure-track or tenured full-time faculty member (replacement for impending retirement), if enrolments warrant	Huron Administration
Research the case to support the creation of a new module in Economics and Business Analytics	Department and Dean