



Proposed Major in Global Great Books Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Huron University College
Degrees Offered	BA
Modules Reviewed	Major in Global Great Books
External Consultants	Leah Bradshaw, Professor, Political Science, Brock University Neil Robertson, Director, Foundation Year Program, University of King's College
Internal Reviewer	Dr. Laretta Frederking, Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Brescia University College
Date of Site Visit	April 18, 2019
Evaluation	Approved to Commence
Approval Dates	SUPR-U: June 10, 2019 SCAPA: September 11, 2019 Senate:
Year of Next Review	2026-27

Executive Summary

The site visit for the Proposal for a new undergraduate major in Global Great Books took place on April 18, 2019 and consisted of meetings with the Vice-Provost of Academic Programs, Academic Dean, Chair (via telephone) and other administrative support staff. The visit also included sessions with faculty, and a campus tour including a visit of the library to understand the campus context.

The external consultants' report supports the introduction of this major and recognizes the intellectual relevance of a program to read texts in a critically engaged context, to "not only understand what was originally thought and why, but also to question the validity of these positions from several distinct perspectives". They did not identify any critical issues to raise concerns about the quality of the academic program or its relevance in terms of the mission of Huron as well as Western.

The reviewers recognized that the program fits within the template of "great books" programs that are offered across Canada and the United States. What is unique and commendable is that Huron's program distinctively breaks from the western culture focus of most existing programs. The reviewers commended its interdisciplinary perspectives and the willingness of

those involved in the program to expand students' exposure to unique voices through guest lectures and invited contributors.

The Global Great Books program aligns with Western University's mission, values, and strategic priorities as well as broadening the robust liberal arts education that is offered at Huron. It contributes to Western's goals "providing students with interdisciplinarity, critical inquiry and creative thinking, an awareness of the limits of knowledge, and adaptation to resilience and lifelong learning". Through the study of whole texts, both ancient and modern, and from around the world, students and faculty embrace these learning outcomes with a global perspective and through intentional interdisciplinary connections.

Significant Strengths of the Program

1. The Global Great Books Program breaks from other programs with the explicitly global perspective.
2. The Global Great Books Program also shifts away from a chronological approach to embrace themes that allow for unique flexibility and pedagogical focus on cultural self-understanding and expression
3. The Global Great Books program incorporates two new core courses that have experiential learning components built into the curriculum – GBB 3000F/G: Justice; and GGB3001: Technology.
4. The reviewers celebrated Huron's rich support in the Library Services Personnel and the enthusiastic support and commitment articulated by the staff for this program.
5. Huron has increased enrolment in the Humanities by 83% and this new major serves their intellectual interests as well as Huron's expanding numbers.

Summary of the Reviewers' Key Recommendations and Department/Faculty Responses

1. Ensure 'coverage' requirements to maintain the global reach (western and non-western) of the courses and also temporal content (both ancient and modern) and interdisciplinary commitment.

The department seemed to concur that the program needs to consider these types of commitments and to assess the particular themes to ensure that the program meets its goals.

2. Assess the student enrolment and identify a second tenure track appointment in order to expand the number of courses taught by core full-time faculty.

The administrative leadership commits to staff the program commensurate with quality expectations and through the appointment of faculty to other programs, thereby continuing the interdisciplinary focus. As noted by the Academic Dean, a second tenure-stream position may be appropriate and will be considered in the long-term.

Other Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

- No additional considerations noted.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that require action and/or follow-up. The Department Chair, in consultation with the Affiliated University College Principal will be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.

Recommendation	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Ensure alignment of faculty resources with student enrolment	Review faculty appointments and monitor student enrolment once enrolment restrictions are lifted		