

Report of SUPR-U (Cyclical Reviews)

## Final Assessment Report

<b>Undergraduate Program:</b>	<b>Economics at King's University College</b>
<b>New or Cyclical Program Review (please indicate)</b>	<b>Cyclical Program Review</b>
<b>Degree(s) Offered:</b>	<b>BA</b>
<b>Date of Site Visit:</b>	<b>March 1, 2013</b>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Good quality</b>

### Summary:

#### Institutional Synthesis

The External Consultant (Dr. Maria Gallego – Wilfrid Laurier University) concluded that the Economics program at King's University College "is delivered according to Western's vision, values, strategic priorities and academic plans"; that the curriculum is consistent with that at other institutions in terms of course content and level; that positive changes have been made since the last academic review; that courses reflect the current state of the discipline; and that the senior thesis course (now offered by only a few institutions) enhances the learning experience of students. She comments very positively about the students' impression of the program, the small class sizes, the move towards more finance oriented courses and the advantages available to students by having both Economics and MOS courses offered by the same Department. Her recommendations are relatively minor and center on the assessment of learning, modes of course delivery and resources including the suggestion of a hire in the area of finance. The Department response addresses a number of the more minor recommendations. The College is pleased with the review.

#### Strengths of the Program

- The Economics program is current in terms of curriculum and course content. Class sizes are small and students have close interaction with their instructors.
- The research methods course and senior thesis course are value added aspects of the program that few institutions offer.
- Students have a very flexible choice of modules within the Department. Library resources more than meet the requirements of the program.
- The Department has been able to create unique programs by taking advantage of offering both Economics and MOS programs within the same Department.
- Graduates of the program have entered noteworthy graduate programs around the world.
- The Department has successfully developed an internationalization program of study in both of its major disciplines.

#### Weaknesses of the Program

- The Department is encouraged to implement more diverse types of assessments including on-line testing. Students would like a greater selection of electives.
- The reliance on part time teaching should be reduced by hiring full time in both Economics and Mathematics.
- The consultant recommends a diversification of international partnerships and intakes of qualified international students.
- The consultant recommends more administrative assistance for the Department Chair.

### **Executive Summary**

The Economics program at King's University College is current in terms of curriculum and content. It has a successful international component, requires a senior thesis, effectively prepares students for graduate study and offers students unique opportunities to access finance and MOS courses. The Department should diversify its internationalization initiative, explore different modes of course delivery and assessment, and seek ways of increasing resources to reduce reliance on part time instruction.

Recommendation	Responsibility
Deploy diverse types of assessment of learning	Department
Offer a greater selection of electives	Department and EPC
More administrative assistance for the Department Chair	Dean's Office