

Final Assessment Report

Name of Program

French Program at King's University College

Degrees Offered

BA Honors Specialization in French Language and Literature
BA Major in French Language and Literature
BA Minor in French Language and Literature
BA Specialization in French Studies

External Consultants

Donald Bruce PhD - University of Guelph
Marie-Diane Clarke PhD - University of Saskatchewan

Internal Reviewers

Mark Blagrove PhD - Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Huron University College

Date of Site Visit

March 16, 2016

Evaluation

Good Quality

Approved by SUPR-U

June 8, 2016

Approved by SCAPA

No date entered.

Executive Summary

The reviewers noted the high level of student satisfaction with the teaching staff and with the program and pointed to the strong complementarity of faculty specialty areas as a key strength currently. Much of the review was focussed on possible future eventualities with staffing, with the reviewers anticipating an opportunity for renewal and recommending a shift away from what they saw as a nearly exclusive French literary concentration, accommodating the interests of prospective teachers of French in the school system. The department, in its response, contested the characterization of the current program as locked into a French literature model, and demonstrated how the reviewers' comment that, "Both the curriculum and the extra-curricular activities need to be 'tuned' to the 21st-century generation" was unfounded.

Significant Strengths of Program

The reviewers pointed to "the clarity and appropriateness of the program's requirements and associated learning outcomes in relation to the undergraduate degree level expectations." They also noted a "strong sense of cohort and identity amongst the students and the instructors." The complementarity of the current faculty members' areas of specialization was also seen as an enormous strength, particularly given the size

of the program, and one that should be preserved.

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement

The reviewers suggested that the program move from what they saw as a locked-in French literature model to one with increased fit for teacher preparation, with more opportunities for applied studies and articulation of the transferable skills developed, and with more use of technology-enhanced teaching, and with enhanced opportunities for experiential learning. They also suggested exploring cooperation with colleagues in the English department in design and delivery of courses in literary theory and textual analysis. Several measures for recruiting students were suggested, including several means of outreach to high schools and increased clear messaging around French proficiency as a valuable asset in the working world. It was noted that the administrative assistant may at times be overloaded and could use support. The department noted that the suggestion to introduce, at the second-year level, civilization courses that place focus on practical language use is already met by existing courses available through the department on the main campus. A suggestion to create one longer-term contract lecturer position was embraced by the department but seen to be outside of its control.

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
Find ways to increase communication with the corresponding department on the main campus.	Department, Dean	Regular processes, affiliation agreement	2017