
Final Assessment Report: Undergraduate Program Review – Anishinaabemowin

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee of Senate – Algoma University

January 2013

Algoma University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process requires an objective, comprehensive, and constructive evaluation of all academic programs. The purpose of the review process is to assure the quality and relevance of the university's programs through an analytical and comprehensive analysis of the program that will result in recommendations for actions to enhance the quality of the program.

In addition to providing process oversight, following the departmental self-study and the external review of these programs, the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPCOM) is charged with the preparation of a *Final Assessment Report* (FAR) (AU IQAP s. 3.14) that summarizes and evaluates the Review Committee's report and the internal responses.

At Algoma University, the Anishinaabemowin program is a three year general BA program located within the Department of Modern Languages. As such this program has a wide and diverse set of stakeholders. It is within this diverse context that this report wishes to acknowledge in particular the current negotiations taking place between Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG). This report is also presented within the context of respect for the rights of all individual faculty members.

APPCOM affirms the findings advanced to it through the program review. The following draws from this program review and serves as the Committee's Assessment Report to the Department, the Divisional Chair, the Senate, and the Quality Council:

The core strengths of the program include (a) very good academic quality of the courses, (b) highly committed faculty members dedicated to teaching the core elements central to the program, and (c) a unique program offering in Ontario.

Opportunities for program improvement and enhancement have been identified through this review process and are recommended. They include curricular revisions aimed at fluency and program growth, additional staff flexible in a variety of orthographies and the formation of an academic working group that would consist of members from both the university and SKG working together to develop academic plans and programs.

The specific recommendations below will serve to enhance fluency which is a core program objective. They are as follows:

1. the hiring of an additional faculty member to focus on curriculum development relating to conversational skills and story-telling abilities. It is highly recommended the new faculty member be flexible with a variety of orthographies.
2. the overlapping of hires to ensure a smooth transition between those retiring and new hires.
3. the formation of an academic working group that would include academic members from both Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinoogaage Gamig. This working group will be responsible for considering the following possibilities within the framework of student demand and academic quality:
 - academic plans and programs;
 - Indigenous enrollment management;
 - a 4th year to increase enrolment;
 - additional joint majors;
 - an immersion portion of the language program;
 - a roster of fluent speakers to be contracted as workshop or course leaders;
 - opportunities for students to engage with the Shingwauk Archives for course work and advanced study;
 - network with other Ojibwe / Anishinaabe language teaching programs;
 - revise and expand the language teaching curriculum with an emphasis on oral fluency skills.

The first recommendation, the hiring of a new faculty member would require additional financial resources. With a sustained increase in number of majors, FTE resource allocations (e.g., faculty) could increase to further that growth.

Pursuant to the AU IQAP, the department, and in this case, the academic working group are responsible for acting on these recommendations, in concert with the Dean, Curriculum Committee and the University Senate.

The timeline for the implementation plan is recommended to be 18 months for all curricular and program revisions (including new courses). Within 6 months of the public posting of the FAR (Final Assessment Report), the Department Chair is to submit to the Dean a *Status Report* on the progress of the Implementation Plan.

The implementation plan outlined above, within this Final Assessment Report, shall be distributed to the Department, SKG, Divisional Chair, the Senate and the Quality Council.