
Final Assessment Report: External Program Review – Fine Arts
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee of Senate – June 2014
Algoma University

Algoma University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process [IQAP] on Program Reviews requires an objective, comprehensive, and constructive evaluation of all academic programs. The central objective of program review is to assess how current offerings could better serve students (within the available resources), and provide specific recommendations for improving program quality.

The Department of Fine Arts and Music delivers three Fine Arts programs: (i) Bachelor of Fine Arts, (ii) Bachelor of Arts (General)- Fine Arts, and (iii) Minor in Fine Arts.

The strengths of the program include: an integrated and sound visual arts (two-dimensional) curriculum, tailored offerings to meet regional needs, a student-centred, hands-on approach to teaching, low professor : student ratios that provide individual attention from committed faculty; opportunities for practical professional development (i.e., field and exhibit) that result in excellent student work.

Within the context of the external review of these programs, the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (AppCom) of Senate has reviewed the program self-study, the External Review Committee (ERC) Report, the Program Response to the ERC Report and the Decanal Response to all the materials above. In its synthesis, review and response to these materials, AppCom is called upon to identify opportunities for program improvement and enhancement. As such, the Committee recommends the following actions for implementation:

Recommendation #1 – Program Revisions

- a. engagement with Indigenous communities - including SKG - to develop strength in contemporary Indigenous art (*taught by knowledge-keepers and studio instructors*). This would be aimed at summer institute offerings and opportunities for student field work in natural settings;
- b. the addition of distinct and explicit indigenous course content;
- c. a shift of course foci from form-to-content, at the senior-level;
- d. substantive revisions to art history offerings in the areas of contemporary and Indigenous art, as well as cultural studies and theory. This would include collaboration with Anishinaabe Student Service Division with an eye to developing an Indigenous Art History and Contemporary Indigenous Art course offering

Recommendation #2 – Resourcing

That the Academic Administration consider the provision of resources (when available) to support the fine arts programs as follows:

- a. Studio facilities that are larger, as well as more functional and accessible;
- b. Faculty (generalist) art historian, with an Indigenous practices specialty, in order to provide program depth and balance.

Recommendation #3 – Partnerships

That Academic Administration and the Department of Fine Arts and Music work together to advance partnerships with an eye towards increasing program appeal, growth and opportunities by establishing a sound and flexible diploma-to-degree articulation agreement with community-college graphic design programmes [*both two year (45 credit transfer) and three year (60 credit transfer) programs*] into the Fine Arts degree programmes.

The Committee recommends that, within one month, the Department prepare a work plan based on the aforementioned recommended actions for implementation. This work plan will be assessed by the Committee, and approved. The Department shall prepare a report of the status of the agreed implementation plan eighteen months following completion of the review. This report shall be submitted to the Committee for follow-up.

Respectfully submitted:

Arthur Perlini (Dean), Cheryl Reed-Elder (Chair - Sciences), Gayle Broad (13/14 Chair -Social Sciences), Nikki Shaw (14/15 Chair -Social Sciences), Noni Boyle (Chair - humanities), David Marasco (Registrar), and David Schantz (VPAR)