



University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

Program(s) Reviewed:	International Relations, Honours B.A.: Specialist, Major
Division/Unit in Which Program(s) is Housed:	Trinity College, Faculty of Arts & Science
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Prof. Nick Cullather, Ph.D., School of Global and International Studies, Department of History, Indiana University 2. Prof. Eric Helleiner, Ph.D., Faculty of Arts Chair in International Political Economy, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo
Date of Review Visit:	October 8–9, 2015
Date Reported to AP&P:	March 30, 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all bulleted comments apply to all programs reviewed.

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that there were no issues to be drawn to the attention of the Agenda Committee but requested a follow up report in one year about the steps taken to address the concerns identified in the review including issues around resourcing arrangements and curriculum design and delivery. The follow-up report will be considered by AP&P at the Cycle 5 meeting in 2016-17 academic year.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- Attracts an elite cohort of students and produces some of the most successful social science graduates at the University
- Distinctive curriculum built around three strong disciplines: political science, history, and economics

- High proportion of students participating in learning beyond the classroom

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Improving the curriculum, including creating more flexible requirements, reviewing upper level offerings, and offering more courses from other cognate departments
- Establishing a sustainable leadership structure and re-engaging the three main departments (political science, history, and economics) in the program
- Repositioning Trinity College's support for the program as clearly offered to all students

4 Implementation Plan

The Dean undertook in consultation with the Program to support the following changes:

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Improving the curriculum, including creating more flexible requirements, reviewing upper level offerings, and offering more courses from other cognate departments
 - The Program Director will consult with the FAS Dean's Office and the heads of the three departments associated with the Program (Economics, History, and Political Science), with the aim of preparing a strategic plan that may address the rigidity in course requirements.
 - The Program Director will consider several options to improve program delivery, such as introducing streams, for greater flexibility.
 - The Program Director will identify potential research opportunities with an understanding of resource implications.
 - Establishing a sustainable leadership structure and re-engaging the three main departments (Political Science, History, and Economics) in the program
 - The FAS Dean's Office, in consultation with Trinity College, will review the current leadership structure with the aim of establishing a sustainable directorship.
 - Repositioning Trinity College's support for the program as clearly offered to all students
 - Trinity College will clarify the messaging around the program to all FAS students enrolled in the IR program concerning support and opportunities for engagement available to all students. This will include revising the IR program web pages and reviewing and revising the structure of the course union leadership, as necessary.
- Medium Term (1–2 years)
 - Improving the curriculum, including creating more flexible requirements, reviewing upper level offerings, and offering more courses from other cognate departments
 - Following a review of the curriculum and guided by the strategic plan, the Program Director will begin implementing program changes, with the possibility of bringing these forward for governance approval in the 2017-18 academic year.
- Longer Term (3–5 years)
 - Establishing a sustainable leadership structure and re-engaging the three main departments (political science, history, and economics) in the program

- The FAS Dean's Office and the Program Director will consult with the heads of the three department units to review current teaching agreements and reaffirm their commitments to the International Relations (IR) Program as a way of decreasing the Program's reliance on sessional instructors.

The Dean's Office will follow up annually with the unit to assess progress.

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the program's strengths as its attractiveness to an elite cohort of students; the success of its graduates; its distinctive curriculum built around three strong disciplines: political science, history, and economics; and the high proportion of students participating in learning beyond the classroom. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: improving the curriculum, including creating more flexible requirements, reviewing upper level offerings, and offering more courses from other cognate departments; establishing a sustainable leadership structure and re-engaging the three main departments (Political Science, History, and Economics) in the program; and repositioning Trinity College's support for the program as clearly offered to all students. Following a review of the curriculum and guided by the strategic plan, the Program Director will begin implementing program changes, with the possibility of bringing these forward for governance approval in the 2017-18 academic year. The FAS Dean's Office, in consultation with Trinity College, will review the current leadership structure with the aim of establishing a sustainable directorship. Trinity College will clarify the messaging around the program to all FAS students enrolled in the IR program concerning support and opportunities for engagement available to all students. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that there were no issues to be drawn to the attention of the Agenda Committee but requested a follow up report in one year about the steps taken to address the concerns identified in the review including issues around resourcing arrangements and curriculum design and delivery. The follow-up report will be considered by AP&P at the Cycle 5 meeting in 2016-17 academic year.