



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

Program(s):	African Studies, Honours BA: Specialist, Major; Minor Review of program only (program housed in New College)
Division/Unit:	Faculty of Arts & Science
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Dr. Bruce Berman, Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Studies and Director, Ethnicity and Democratic Governance, Queens University 2. Dr. Kamari Maxine Clarke, Professor of Anthropology and International and Area Studies, and Chair, Yale Council on African Studies, Yale University
Date of review visit:	February 3, 2012
Date reported to AP&P:	April 16, 2013

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- “Impressive” faculty including “many of the top Africanist faculty in Canada”
- “Exceptionally able and committed” students
- International reputation as a strong centre for African studies
- Development of students’ critical thinking, reasoning, communication skills, and breadth and depth of knowledge
- Strong Swahili language program

3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Improving coordination with cognate departments, extra-departmental units and divisions, and governance structure to strengthen the program and facilitate student access to African-content courses
- Increasing the number of humanities courses to support multiple ways of understanding African social worlds
- Developing an international dimension to the program that enhances opportunities for student learning beyond the classroom
- Stabilizing the Program's faculty positions and finding additional resources to support its future development

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Facilitating access to courses
 - The Program has introduced courses at second, third and four-hundred levels that provide coherence and depth to its core curriculum
 - New College and the Dean's Office will provide additional TA support for relevant courses to provide additional spaces and better course access for African Studies students
 - Increasing the number of humanities courses
 - An enhanced interdisciplinary approach has been incorporated in a special topics course and faculty will examine similar possibilities for other courses
 - Developing international opportunities
 - The Program is working with New College to establish internship opportunities for upper year students with Africa-focused organizations as part of experiential learning
 - The Program and the Summer Abroad Program based at Woodsworth College will work to establish a new course in Ethiopia, which will serve as a foundation to develop a possible formal, structured exchange agreement
 - Improving coordination with partners to strengthen program
 - The Program Director will continue to engage in discussions with cognate units and programs
 - The African Studies Advisory Board will explore adding a few cognate chairs and directors, as appropriate, in order to strengthen relationships with these units
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
 - Stabilizing faculty
 - The Principal of New College and the Program Director will examine possible options for funding a tenure-stream position with a specialization in international relations to be shared with a cognate unit in Arts & Science

- The Program Director will work on the possible joint hiring of teaching staff with cognate units, specifically in the Humanities
- The Program will continue to discuss the creation of an MA program
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
 - International Opportunities
 - The Faculty and University will coordinate the development of further linkages with African universities

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 impressive faculty complement, exceptionally able and committed students, development of critical undergraduate skills and knowledge, and the strong Swahili language program. The reviewers recommended that the program consider issues around access to courses, making additions to the humanities curriculum, increasing international opportunities and connections, coordinating with cognate units to strengthen the program, and stabilizing the faculty complement. Since its review, the Program has increased its course offerings and secured additional TA support and spaces in cognate units' courses for its students. The Program Director will continue to engage in discussion with cognate units and programs, specifically around the addition of possible joint hiring of teaching staff. The Program will continue to add internship and study abroad opportunities for students, while Faculty and University will coordinate the development of further linkages with African universities. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.