



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

<b>Programs Reviewed:</b>	History, B.A. (Hons.): Spec, Maj, Min History, M.A., Ph.D.
<b>Unit Reviewed:</b>	Department of History
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	1. Professor Suzanne Morton, Department of History and Classical Studies, McGill University 2. Professor Mark Steinberg, Department of History, University of Illinois, Urbana 3. Professor Alan Taylor, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia
<b>Date of Review Visit:</b>	November 16 –17, 2015
<b>Date Reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	November 1, 2016

## 1 Outcome

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

## 2 Significant Program Strengths

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- Impressive department offering a broad range of undergraduate and graduate courses offered on a range of areas, periods, and themes
- Excellent recent revision of graduate fields in global, transnational, and comparative frames
- Rigorous, attractive undergraduate program that balances geographic, chronological, and thematic breadth

- Impressive department with leadership among Canadian universities during a period of rapid change
- Impressive rate of research publication during the past five years
- Several faculty members have become active in pioneering media and digital projects
- Relatively large faculty drawn from three campuses offers unusual breadth
- Chinese history has become a major strength since the last external review

### 3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

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- Taking a more deliberate approach to graduate and undergraduate curriculum development, including strengthening assessment practices, adding specific courses, and providing internship opportunities
- Rethinking recruitment strategies at the undergraduate and graduate levels in light of declining enrolments
- Considering the structure of graduate funding and TA roles in relation to the structure and length of the graduate curriculum
- Recruiting and funding international graduate students to strengthen U of T's global position
- Engaging in complement planning to provide coverage of Latin American and African fields
- Addressing concerns about diversity and issues of gender equality
- Providing relief to associate professors through mentoring and teaching releases
- Supporting collaboration, intellectual community, and communication within the department, while still maintaining connections to interdisciplinary centres and institutes
- Addressing departmental space use and determining how to best serve tri-campus faculty

### 4 Implementation Plan

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#### Immediate Term (6 months)

- Taking a more deliberate approach to graduate and undergraduate curriculum development
  - The Department began reviewing their graduate curriculum in 2014-15 and undertook a major revision of their graduate fields and curriculum. The Department's Graduate Program Committee is closely monitoring enrolments and trends in the field to better respond to curriculum needs.
  - The Department has engaged in a revision of their undergraduate curriculum for 2016-17 and is working with the Vice Dean, Undergraduate to ensure changes are made in accordance with the Faculty's degree objectives. The Department will aim to introduce more equity in teaching loads, restoring area collaboration in planning teaching offerings, and reviewing low-enrolment courses to revise curriculum in a bid to improve student experience.
- Rethinking recruitment strategies

- The Department is addressing this at the graduate level through a recruitment day that was held for top candidates and directing more funding to MA recruitment, which has shown an increase in target acceptances.
- Recruiting and funding international graduate students
  - The Faculty of Arts & Science is engaged in a review of its international quota system, led by the Vice-Dean, Graduate Education, to determine how best to allocate international quota spots across the Faculty, based on need and demand
  - The Department has secured a major donation to build an endowment directed solely to assisting international graduate students (Peggy A. Colson Fellowship, \$750,000). The fellowship allowed the Department to recruit their top international candidates for the doctoral program this past year.
- Engaging in complement planning to provide coverage of Latin American and African fields
  - This past spring, the Department submitted requests to the Arts and Science Faculty Appointments Committee (FAC) which approves all of the Faculty searches, for positions in the area of Latin American-Hispanic World and African Diaspora. They received authorization to search in the area of Latin American history and will continue to make African Diaspora a high priority.
- Addressing concerns about diversity and issues of gender equality
  - The Department increased their complement by four, which included three diversity hires. All three are joint appointments with other units. The Department will continue to make diversity and gender equality a priority through hiring.
- Providing relief to associate professors through mentoring and teaching releases
  - The Department is working to improve mentoring for associate professors, including regular individual meetings between the Chair and each faculty member
- Supporting collaboration, intellectual community, and communication within the department
  - The Department has increased book launch events held within the community; initiated an event series for faculty and graduate students; revived its newsletter and launched a new website
  - The Department has increased lectures and workshops that pair faculty with visiting faculty and postdocs; the Department has encouraged visiting lecturers to offer master classes to graduate students during their time at the University
- Addressing departmental space use
  - The Department has worked closely with the Faculty's Office of Infrastructure Planning to respond to the needs of graduate students and UTM/UTSC office spaces.

### Medium Term (1-2 years)

- Taking a more deliberate approach to graduate and undergraduate curriculum development
  - The Department will work with the Dean's Office on finding potential resource options for experiential learning and internships

- Considering the structure of graduate funding and TA roles in relation to the structure and length of the graduate curriculum
  - The Faculty of Arts and Science is working to address time to completion through various initiatives to be led by the Vice Dean, Graduate Education
  - The Department has launched a major overhaul of the TA assignment process and will be reducing the number of hours that TAs must work

#### Longer Term (3-5 years)

- Rethinking recruitment strategies
  - The Department will develop a proposal for a professional Master's in Contemporary International History program
  - The Department will undertake a review of undergraduate enrolments in consultation with the Dean's Office will take place to better understand current enrolment trends
- Addressing departmental space use
  - The Department will move into the 90 Queen's Park building, which will include expanded office space for all tri-campus faculty, improved graduate study and social spaces and improved teaching spaces

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

## 5 Executive Summary

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The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as the broad range of undergraduate and graduate courses offered on a range of areas, periods, and themes; the excellent recent revision of graduate fields in global, transnational, and comparative frames; the rigorous, attractive undergraduate program that balances geographic, chronological, and thematic breadth; the department's leadership among Canadian universities during a period of rapid change; the impressive rate of research publication during the past five years; faculty who are active in pioneering media and digital projects; the relatively large faculty drawn from three campuses offers unusual breadth; and the strength in Chinese history. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: taking a more deliberate approach to graduate and undergraduate curriculum development; rethinking recruitment strategies in light of declining enrolments; considering the structure of graduate funding and TA roles in relation to the structure and length of the graduate curriculum; recruiting and funding international graduate students; engaging in complement planning to provide coverage of Latin American and African fields; addressing concerns about diversity and gender equality; providing relief to associate professors through mentoring and teaching releases; supporting collaboration, intellectual community, and communication within the department; and addressing departmental space use and determining how to best serve tri-campus faculty. The Department has revised their graduate and undergraduate curricula, and has made changes to its graduate recruitment strategy. The Faculty of Arts & Science is engaged in a review of its international quota system, and has a new endowment to support international graduate students. The

Department received authorization to search in the area of Latin American history; will continue to make African Diaspora a high priority; and has increased the complement by four, including three diversity hires. The Department is working to improve mentoring for associate professors, and has initiated a number of social and collaborative events and tools for the department. The Department will move into the 90 Queen's Park building, which will include expanded office space for all tri-campus faculty, improved graduate study and social spaces and improved teaching spaces. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.