

UTQAP Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

1 Review Summary

Program(s) Reviewed:	Urban Studies, Honours B.A.: Specialist, Major, Minor
Division/Unit Offering Program(s):	Innis College, Faculty of Arts and Science
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Byron Miller, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Calgary• Carol Camp Yeakey, Marshall S. Snow Professor of Arts & Sciences, Founding Director, Interdisciplinary Program in Urban Studies & Center on Urban Research & Public Policy, Washington University in St Louis
Date of Review Visit:	March 10, 2023
Review Report Received by VPAP:	July 26, 2023
Administrative Response(s) Received by VPAP:	March 8, 2024
Date Reported to AP&P:	April 10, 2024

Previous UTQAP Review

Date: February 26-27, 2015

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Significant Program Strengths

- High demand program that enjoys an excellent reputation and benefits from the student-centred college environment
- Interdisciplinary emphasis and breadth are hallmarks of the program, which draws on a diverse array of courses from at least eight different Arts & Science departments
- Enjoys a complementary relationship with the much larger undergraduate programs in Department of Geography and Planning
- Strong emphasis on experiential learning and community engagement
- Mentorship program connects current students with alumni and others in urban professions throughout Toronto; an effective bridge to jobs for new graduates
- Regularly hosts and convenes numerous high-profile events for students, the University community, and the community at large
- Very good infrastructure and resources to support the program

Opportunities for Program Enhancement

- Determining the right number of curricular options within the program
- Engaging with cognate units to ensure students have access to the courses that they need
- Developing relationships with relevant units outside of Arts & Science, such as Architecture and Engineering, to further enhance the student experience
- Better using course evaluations to assess and enhance the program
- Reconsidering the resources, including faculty, to deliver the program and its high quality experiential learning opportunities
- Evaluating the possible impact of future program growth on the program's personalized approach
- Evaluating models for future directions to build upon current strengths

Current Review: Documentation and Consultation

Documentation Provided to Reviewers

Terms of reference; Self-study; Previous review report including the administrative response(s); Access to all course descriptions; Access to the curricula vitae of faculty.

Consultation Process

Faculty, students, administrative staff, senior program administrators, Innis College Principal's office as well as members of relevant cognate units as determined by the commissioning officer.

Current Review: Findings and Recommendations

1. Undergraduate Program(s)

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

The reviewers observed the following **strengths**:

- Objectives
 - ▶ Program guided by three key principles: 1) multi- /inter-disciplinarity; 2) studying cities from multiple perspectives and experiences; 3) engagement with communities to provide foundations for critical thinking, skill development, and active citizenship
- Admissions requirements
 - ▶ Admissions conform to FAS requirements
 - ▶ Enrolment has been strong overall
- Curriculum and program delivery
 - ▶ As an interdisciplinary program, Urban Studies relies heavily on courses offered by cognate FAS units, and other divisions
 - ▶ Diverse range of available courses allows students to design programs of study tailored to their own interests
 - ▶ Two full-time teaching stream faculty associated with program offer core courses in Urban Studies
 - ▶ Fourth year courses in particular focus on community-engaged learning, where students work directly with community partners
 - ▶ Community-engaged learning component of program is exceptional and distinguishes program from other North American Urban Studies offerings
- Innovation
 - ▶ Program sets an impressive example for community-engaged learning and research
- Accessibility and diversity
 - ▶ Program is highly committed to diversity and inclusion

- ▶ Innis College has developed a number of programs and strategies to improve the student experience, such as establishing a Black student experience working group and creating an Assistant Dean position for Community Wellness
- Student engagement, experience and program support services
 - ▶ Overwhelming majority of students express high degree of program satisfaction
 - ▶ Student survey responses compare very favourably with other U of T programs and other Urban Studies programs
 - ▶ Students appreciate program's multidisciplinary nature, flexibility, experiential learning, opportunities to build networks, critical and equity lens, hands-on experience, and opportunity to work with urban and City professionals
 - ▶ Students describe program as "welcoming" and "very supportive"
 - ▶ Several undergraduate students have published research conducted as part of their Urban Studies Program course work
 - ▶ "the fact that the University of Toronto has an academic program devoted to Urban Studies and has succeeded in generating such high interest and enrollment speaks to intellectual engagement of students focused on urban complexities"

The reviewers identified the following **areas of concern**:

- Admissions requirements
 - ▶ Program restricts enrolment due to limited faculty and administrative supports; it would be difficult to increase enrolment, given limited resources
- Curriculum and program delivery
 - ▶ Only one methods course is currently being offered
- Student engagement, experience and program support services
 - ▶ No data provided on graduate trajectories or placements, so reviewers note difficulty in ascertaining the program's social impact on a broader scale
 - ▶ "Having only two teaching stream faculty limits student involvement and engagement in faculty research projects"

The reviewers made the following **recommendations**:

- Curriculum and program delivery
 - ▶ "As the curriculum evolves, it will be important for Urban Studies to develop themes and topical areas of concentration such as public health, social/public policy, geographic information systems, carceral studies, Indigenous Studies, social justice, etc."
 - ▶ "A strong grounding in multiple methods will serve Urban Studies students well"
- Student engagement, experience and program support services
 - ▶ It would benefit the program to identify and evaluate where program graduates go after matriculation; this would help to ascertain the program's reputation among broader constituencies and could help with future recruitment and fundraising
 - ▶ "[I]t is vitally important for the students considering graduate or professional degrees to become acquainted with the diverse research methodologies utilized in the broad interdisciplinary field of Urban Studies"

2. Graduate Program(s): n/a

3. Faculty/Research

The reviewers observed the following **strengths**:

- Overall quality
 - ▶ The two teaching stream faculty members associated with the program are “by all accounts highly respected and valued”; and are excellent teachers, and responsible faculty and community members
- Research
 - ▶ “With an exclusive focus on undergraduate education and only two dedicated teaching stream faculty members, the research record of the Urban Studies Program is remarkable”
 - ▶ Program’s focus on community-engaged learning and research are major reasons for the program’s success and appeal
 - ▶ Both faculty members’ community-engaged work aims to open up possibilities for more just and livable urban futures, engaging with homeless people, residents of social housing neighbourhoods, Indigenous peoples, city planners and politicians, incarcerated people, and others
 - ▶ Faculty projects have received SSHRC and other funding, and their work has been published in highly regarded journals

The reviewers identified the following **areas of concern**:

- Research
 - ▶ Without tenure stream faculty involved in the program, there are significantly fewer opportunities for grant awards through research foundations
 - ▶ “The constraints teaching faculty face limits the possibility of obtaining large Tri-Council research grants and, in turn, student exposure to a broader range of research methodologies”
- Faculty
 - ▶ The two faculty members are each responsible for teaching six half courses per year, in addition to a variety of administrative and coordinating responsibilities, including establishing and maintaining relationships with community organizations
 - ▶ Considerable concern that contributing faculty are significantly overworked, in light of teaching, administrative, and relationship management responsibilities

The reviewers made the following **recommendations**:

- Research
 - ▶ Considerable potential noted for expansion of community-based research and impact, if additional faculty resources can be dedicated to the program
- Faculty
 - ▶ “[G]reater faculty involvement in the Urban Studies Program could be realized by expanding the Provost’s course release program”

4. Administration

Note: Issues that are addressed through specific University processes and therefore considered out of scope for UTQAP reviews (e.g., individual Human Resources issues, specific health and safety concerns) are routed to proper University offices to be addressed, and are therefore not included in the Review Summary component of the Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan.

The reviewers observed the following **strengths**:

- Relationships
 - ▶ Morale of the faculty and students appears quite high
 - ▶ Widespread appreciation among faculty, staff and students of the quality of the program, and its contributions to the broader Toronto community
 - ▶ Program enjoys mutual respect with numerous cognate divisions, units and entities, in particular the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, the Department of Geography and Planning, the School of Cities, and the Centre for Community Partnerships
- Organizational and financial structure
 - ▶ Innis College Principal’s office responsible for program’s faculty appointments, budget management, liaison with the Faculty of Arts and Science, student services and operations; this arrangement has helped to keep the program “nimble” and responsive to student and community needs
- Long-range planning and overall assessment
 - ▶ Successful and innovative program, emphasizing community-engaged urban research in the Toronto metropolitan area

The reviewers identified the following **areas of concern**:

- Relationships
 - ▶ “[T]he organizational and financial constraints of the program, as well as uncertainty surrounding future development and direction, are keenly felt”
 - ▶ “Issues of stress, including the lack of staff support and administrative overload, are real issues affecting both faculty and students”

- ▶ Limited connections with external government, academic and professional organizations noted, due to limited available time and human resources to develop and sustain such partnerships
- ▶ Urban Studies events programming is constrained by staffing and funding levels
- ▶ The City of Toronto has historically placed Urban Studies students in an internship program, however it recently suspended its placement agreement with U of T
- Organizational and financial structure
 - ▶ Program is severely under-resourced, with only two associated teaching stream faculty members
 - ▶ “The confounding organizational structure of the University and the fact that Urban Studies is a program, not a department, places the Program at a structural disadvantage in accessing resources of both a tangible and intangible nature”
 - ▶ No dedicated Urban Studies space on campus and no signage to direct students to the office where they can obtain student advising
 - ▶ Lack of space for Urban Studies students to study and collaborate
- Long-range planning and overall assessment
 - ▶ “For a program of the size, scope, complexity, and level of community engagement of the Urban Studies Program, by far its most surprising and concerning aspect is the fact that it has only two teaching stream faculty members”
 - ▶ “Having only two teaching stream faculty members responsible for virtually all of the core courses as well as community liaison work places the Program in a very precarious position; the loss of a single faculty member even for a relatively short period of time would cause major disruption. The lack of dedicated resources, on par with a department of the Urban Studies Program’s size, limits the Program’s capacity to fulfil its potential contribution to both the University and the broader Toronto community, as well as to meet growing enrolment demand.”
 - ▶ “[T]he structural disadvantages of the Program inhibits its future development and success”
 - ▶ Significant broad challenges facing the program include its under-resourcing, Toronto-specific focus and lack of faculty
 - ▶ Reviewers raise broad issue of “how to support college programs with teaching stream faculty who do not hold tenure lines and have little time or capacity to hold major Tri-Council research grants”
 - ▶ “The lack of a clear identity for the Program, both literally and figuratively, is concerning”
- International comparators
 - ▶ “It would be unfair to compare the Urban Studies program at the University of Toronto with either national or international comparators given the tangible human resource constraints and the fact that Urban Studies at Toronto is a program, not a department”

The reviewers made the following **recommendations**:

- Relationships
 - ▶ External partnerships noted as area for potential development, if additional staff and faculty resources are secured
 - ▶ Opportunities for engagement with the City of Toronto and other planning agencies should be explored, including the possibility of paid internships, potentially targeted to serve equity-deserving students and community groups
 - ▶ Opportunities for program enhancement and revenue generation could involve student internships, externships, study abroad activities, exchange programs, and partnerships and research collaborations with other institutions (if the program obtained the resources necessary to pursue such activities)
- Long-range planning and overall assessment
 - ▶ “Given rapid urbanisation, the increasingly pressing nature of urban issues, and growing enrolment demand, it is imperative that solutions to the Program’s faculty and support staff deficiencies be found”
 - ▶ “With only two dedicated faculty members, over 200 enrolled students, and an exceptionally high degree of community engagement, the need for additional full-time faculty as well as support staff to liaise and work with community partners is pressing”
 - ▶ “Joining with the Department of Geography and Planning could ensure greater support and stability for the program, while offering the potential for undergraduate students to work with tenured research faculty on major grants, as well as benefit from the availability of graduate teaching assistants and additional support staff”; if this path is pursued, reviewers recommend creating multiple degree options rather than merging Urban Studies and Planning into a single degree program
 - ▶ “While the School of Cities has no faculty lines or courses, the potential for creating one unit with combined resources and multiple degree options should not be underestimated”
 - ▶ “With appropriate resource supports, both of a tangible and intangible nature, the Program could become internationally renowned for its strong emphasis on community-engaged urban research. Given the pace of urbanization in the Toronto metropolitan area, across Canada, and internationally, the University of Toronto has a golden opportunity to engage in the discussion and resolution of real-world urban issues, as urban residents experience them”

2 Administrative Response & Implementation Plan

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

March 8, 2024

Professor Susan McCahan
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
University of Toronto

RE: UTQAP cyclical review of the Urban Studies undergraduate program

Dear Prof. McCahan,

I write in response to your letter of November 13, 2023, regarding the March 10, 2023, UTQAP cyclical review of the Urban Studies undergraduate program housed at Innis College and requesting our Administrative Responses. The program reviewed was Urban Studies, Honours B.A.: Specialist, Major, Minor.

On behalf of the Faculty of Arts & Science, we would first like to thank the reviewers, Professors Byron Miller, University of Calgary, and Carol Camp Yeakey, Washington University in St Louis, for their very comprehensive review of the Urban Studies program. We would also like to thank the program director, the Innis College Principal's Office, faculty, administrative staff, and all those who contributed to the preparation of the self-study. We also wish to thank the many staff, students, and faculty members who met with the external reviewers and provided thoughtful feedback. The UTQAP cyclical review process is an invaluable exercise that affords us the opportunity to take stock of our academic units and programs, to recognize achievement, and identify areas for improvement.

The review report was finalized on July 26, 2023, after which the director shared it widely with faculty, staff, and students in the Urban Studies program. We are extremely pleased with the reviewers' positive assessment of the overall strength of the program and its outstanding, productive faculty. The reviewers noted that the program sets an impressive example for community-engaged learning and research; the program is highly committed to diversity and inclusion; the two teaching stream faculty members associated with the program are highly respected and valued, are excellent teachers, and responsible faculty and community members; the students express high degree of program satisfaction, with the morale of faculty and students appearing quite high; and the program enjoys mutual respect with numerous cognate divisions, units and entities. The review report also raised several issues and challenges and identified areas for enhancement, noting: broad challenges facing the program include its under-resourcing, with only two associated teaching-stream faculty members; the program has a Toronto-specific focus; faculty and administrative supports are limited; there is concern that contributing faculty are

significantly overworked, in light of teaching, administrative, and relationship management responsibilities; there are limited connections with external government, academic and professional organizations, with limited available time and human resources to develop and sustain such partnerships; there is a need for additional full-time faculty and support staff to liaise and work with community partners; and there is a lack of space for Urban Studies students to study and collaborate.

Each of these recommendations has been addressed in the attached Review Recommendations Table that outlines the program's response, the Dean's response, and an Implementation Plan identifying action items and timelines for each recommendation. The Administrative Response and Implementation Plan was developed in consultation with the program director, Innis College Principal, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning, Acting Associate-Dean, Unit-Level Reviews, and senior leadership within my office. The Implementation Plan provided identifies timeframes of immediate- (six months), medium- (one to two years), and longer- (three to five years) term actions and who (Faculty, Dean, unit) will take the lead in each area. I also identified any necessary changes in organization, policy, or governance where appropriate, as well as any resources, financial or otherwise, that will be provided, and who will provide them.

The next UTQAP cyclical review of the Urban Studies program will take place no later than the **2030-31** review cycle. My office monitors progress on Implementation Plans through periodic meetings with unit leadership. I also acknowledge that your office will request a brief Interim Monitoring Report midway between the 2022-23 UTQAP cyclical review and the year of the next site visit in 2030-31 to report on progress made on the Implementation Plan as outlined in the accompanying Review Recommendations Table.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond to the review report. The reviewers' comments and recommendations will help inform the future priorities of the Urban Studies undergraduate program.

Sincerely,



Melanie Woodin
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Professor, Department of Cell & Systems Biology

cc. Charlie Keil, Principal, Innis College

David Roberts, Program Director, Urban Studies, Faculty of Arts & Science
Gillian Hamilton, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning, Faculty of Arts & Science
Suzanne Wood, Interim Associate Dean, Unit-Level Reviews, Faculty of Arts & Science
Lachmi Singh, Director, Academic Programs, Planning & Quality Assurance, Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Andrea Benoit, Academic Planning & Review Officer, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Amanda Pullan, Academic Planning & Reviews Officer, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

2022-23 UTQAP Review of the FAS Urban Studies Program (Innis College) - Review Recommendations

Please do the following for each recommendation in the table:

- If you **intend** to act on a recommendation, please provide an **Implementation Plan** identifying actions to be taken, the time frame (short, medium, long term) for each, and who will take the lead in each area. If appropriate, please identify any necessary changes in organization, policy or governance; and any resources, financial and otherwise, that will be provided, and who will provide them.
- If you **do not** intend to act on a recommendation, please briefly explain why the actions recommended have not been prioritized.
- In accordance with the UTQAP and Ontario's Quality Assurance Framework, "it is important to note that, while the external reviewers' report may include **commentary** on issues such as faculty complement and/or space requirements when related to the quality of the program under review, **recommendations** on these or any other elements that are within the purview of the university's internal budgetary decision-making processes must be tied directly to issues of program quality or sustainability" (emphasis added)
- You may wish to refer to the [sample table](#) provided by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

Request Prompt <i>verbatim from the request</i>	Rec. #	Recommendations from Review Report <i>verbatim from the review report</i>	Program Response	Dean's Response
The reviewers broadly observed that the program's structure, limited resources and very few dedicated faculty introduce significant structural vulnerability, and concerns around long-term sustainability. They stressed that "[g]iven rapid urbanisation, the increasingly pressing nature of urban issues, and growing enrolment demand, it is imperative that solutions to the Program's faculty and support staff deficiencies be found." They further recommended that opportunities for greater involvement of tenure stream faculty in the program be explored.	1	"Given rapid urbanisation, the increasingly pressing nature of urban issues, and growing enrolment demand, it is imperative that solutions to the Program's faculty and support staff deficiencies be found."	Talks are currently underway with the Department of Geography & Planning to explore the possibility of moving the administrative home of the Urban Studies program into Geography & Planning. Geography & Planning is in the position to be able to offer more extensive resources and programming for Urban Studies.	The Dean's Office is facilitating discussions between Innis College and the Department of Geography & Planning. Moving the administrative home of the Urban Studies program into Geography & Planning will enhance staffing support and the teaching complement available to teach in the Program.
	2	"If there is one over-riding concern that repeatedly emerged throughout our interviews, it is the need for additional resources for the Urban Studies Program. With only two dedicated faculty members, over 200 enrolled students, and an exceptionally high degree of community engagement, the need for additional full-time faculty as well as support staff to liaise and work with community partners is pressing."	Urban Studies has been an incredibly successful program, as is noted by the reviewers. It has been consistently under-resourced. If the move into Geography & Planning takes place, additional faculty and staff will be involved in creating and maintaining community partnerships. We also are exploring ways to utilize University supports – such as those through ELOS (A&S) – to facilitate this work. Geography and Planning has committed financial resources, space, and faculty time to launch a new City Community Engaged Research and Learning Collaborative, co-directed by UST faculty to support this work.	The A&S Office of Experiential Learning & Outreach Support has engaged with the Urban Studies Program and is available to provide support with the creation and maintenance of community partnerships.

	3	“With appropriate resource supports, both of a tangible and intangible nature, the Program could become internationally renowned for its strong emphasis on community-engaged urban research.”	Geography is proposing to support and expand the community-engaged research that is the hallmark of Urban Studies at Innis by creating a City Community Engaged Research and Learning Collaborative.	The Dean's Office is supportive of these potential collaborations and expansion of community-engaged research. The A&S Vice Dean, Academic Planning, Vice Dean, Research, Office of Research Services, and Office of Experiential Learning & Outreach Support, are available to consult and support, as needed.
	4	“... greater research faculty involvement in the Urban Studies Program could be realized by expanding the Provost’s course release program that has allowed [a FIFSW faculty member] to teach a course for the Urban Studies Program for the past several years.”	<p>If the move into Geography occurs, research faculty from that unit will be more directly involved in Urban Studies. That said, while the current faculty in the Urban Studies Program are both from the teaching stream, they maintain robust research agendas and consistently provide opportunities for undergraduates to participate in and receive mentorship on academic research.</p> <p>We continue to entertain partnerships like the one that facilitated the long-standing role that the social work member cited here played in the Urban Studies Program.</p>	The Dean’s Office will support discussions between Innis College and the Department of Geography & Planning.
The reviewers observed opportunities for enhanced connection and/or potential integration with cognate units, in particular the Department of Geography and Planning, and the School of Cities.	5	“In a literal sense, the School of Cities, a multidisciplinary center, incorporates much of what could be expected in a multidisciplinary degree granting program. While the School of Cities has no faculty lines or courses, the potential for creating one unit with combined resources and multiple degree options should not be underestimated.”	<p>The School of Cities does not offer courses or have faculty lines, as the reviewers point out. Therefore, the suggestion to create one unit is not appropriate.</p> <p>We regularly partner with the School of Cities on both in-class and co-curricular activities/opportunities for students when appropriate.</p>	The Dean’s Office supports ongoing events and activities enjoyed by the partnership between Urban Studies and the School of Cities.
	6	“The Urban Studies Program has great potential going forward. Joining with the Department of Geography and Planning could ensure greater support and stability for the program, while offering the potential for undergraduate students to work with tenured research faculty on major grants, as well as benefit from the availability of graduate teaching assistants and additional support staff. With community building	<p>Urban Studies proposes to collaborate with Geography, possibly through incorporation into the unit the following attributes to the Urban Studies programming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater support and stability • Increased involvement of tenure-stream faculty holding major grants (though these are not limited to 	The Dean’s Office will support discussions between Innis College and the Department of Geography & Planning as desired by the units. The Dean’s Office will evaluate and assess where there may be opportunities to support community-oriented programming.

		between students and faculty, both teaching and tenure streams would be enhanced and create synergies. There is a danger, however, of the Urban Studies Program, which is very much community-oriented, being subsumed by the Planning Program, which tends to be more oriented toward (local) state concerns. To ensure that strengths of the Urban Studies Program, which lie first and foremost in community engagement, are not diminished we recommend creating multiple degree options rather than merging Urban Studies and Planning into a single degree program."	<p>tenure-stream faculty, as demonstrated by the success the teaching-stream faculty currently in the Urban Studies Program have enjoyed in obtaining grants)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate teaching assistants and support staff were already available to Urban Studies at Innis. <p>Regarding community engagement, Geography would create a City Community Engaged Research and Learning Collaborative. (see 3)</p>	
The reviewers noted a number of potential opportunities for program enhancement, including student internships, externships, study abroad activities, student exchange programs, and research collaborations.	7	"Opportunities for enhancement and revenue generation could involve student internships, externships, study abroad activities (including partnerships with other universities, including internationally), student exchange programs, and research collaborations with sister Institutions."	These are all promising suggestions that Urban Studies will discuss with Geography in the mid-to-long-term timeline, if the administrative home of Urban Studies does move to Geography.	The Dean's Office will support the collaborations between Innis College and the Department of Geography & Planning as desired by the units. The A&S Office of Experiential Learning & Outreach Support is available to support the unit in exploring additional experiential learning possibilities for their students, as needed.
The reviewers observed a lack of available data on student placements and completion time, and observed that identifying and tracking where students go after graduation could aid in future recruitment and fundraising efforts.	8	"Data is missing on student placements as well as time to completion. It would serve the Program well to do an evaluation as well as survey of where the program's graduates go after matriculation. Such an effort would provide a useful feedback loop to ascertain the Program's perceived as well as real reputation among broader constituencies, e.g., government, academe, community agencies, foundations, etc. Further, such data gathering can be useful in future recruitment and fundraising."	<p>Time to completion is not a statistic that is relevant for an undergraduate program.</p> <p>Urban Studies maintains contact with many of its graduates, but agrees that gathering more data on placements would be beneficial to the program in terms of future recruitment and fundraising.</p> <p>A work study student will be hired in 2024-25 to create a database of alumni.</p>	The VPAP is currently engaged in a significant project (Student Academic Success data project) designed to provide Divisions and Units with information about admissions and retention in academic programs. The Dean's Office is supporting the development and rollout of these new dashboards by providing training to Units and supporting Units' understanding and use of these metrics.
The reviewers noted limited program connections with external government, academic and professional organizations, and recommended that opportunities for enhanced engagement with the City of	9	"Inter-university partnerships are limited. It takes time and human resources to develop and sustain fruitful partnerships with other universities and organizations; these are in short supply. On the basis of the information provided, this is an area for potential	Inter-university partnerships with universities and colleges in the GTA already take place through CivicLabTO. Other partnerships are something that Urban Studies will be in a position to consider in the mid to long term, if it is established within Geography. It may	The Dean's Office will support discussions between Innis College and the Department of Geography & Planning as desired by the units.

Toronto and other planning agencies be explored.		development, if additional faculty and staff are assigned to the program.”	be able to leverage existing partnerships amongst faculty members in the department.	
	10	“Alternative possibilities for engagement with the City and other planning agencies should be explored, including the possibility of paid internships, perhaps targeted to serve marginalized student and community groups. Again, investment in human and material resources are needed to build and sustain a variety of external relationships.”	<p>The reviewers recommend paid internships, which is something that Urban Studies has considered but not pursued given the diversity of existing partners and the inability of many of them to partner if this was a requirement.</p> <p>Urban Studies is committed to continuing to grow its partnerships and relationships with community organizations and city government. The reviewers came during a time when the omnibus agreement that governed placements of UofT students at the City of Toronto had been suspended since August 2021. It was renewed in September, but even before, Urban Studies creatively maintained and developed connections to the City in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • URB432H1 Urban Studio is taught by the Manager of Public Consultation for Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation • URB335 is taught in partnership with the City of Toronto and eight Toronto-area universities and colleges. It is part of the CivicLabTO initiative. • The School of Cities MUCP places students in Toronto community organizations • The current director has a research partnership with the Toronto Newcomers Office on a CivicLabTO grant to study sanctuary cities and policing. 	The Dean’s Office supports the Program’s continuing efforts to grow partnerships and relationships with community organizations and the City of Toronto. The A&S Office of Experiential Learning & Outreach Support is available to provide support with the creation and maintenance of partnerships, where needed.

<p>Noting a lack of space dedicated for students in the program, the reviewers highlighted the importance of identifying space for Urban Studies students to study and collaborate.</p>	11	<p>“The under-resourcing of the Program is exemplified by the fact that there is no dedicated Urban Studies space on campus and indeed not even signage to direct Urban Studies students to the office where they can obtain student advising. Likewise, space for Urban Studies students to study and collaborate is lacking.”</p>	<p>Should Urban Studies move into Geography, of course the expected additional space that will be afforded to students at Innis in the expansion and renewal project (completed by Fall 2025) would be available to Geography/Urban Studies students.</p>	<p>The Dean’s Office will support discussions about the possibility of new spaces via capital projects at Innis College or the Department of Geography & Planning, should such opportunities arise.</p> <p>The current capital project underway at Innis College may provide new student spaces that could be made available to Urban Studies program students. This would be managed by the College in their spaces.</p>
<p>Other recommendations not prioritized in the Request for Administrative Response</p>	12	<p>“As the curriculum evolves, it will be important for Urban Studies to develop themes and topical areas of concentration such as public health, social/public policy, geographic information systems, carceral studies, Indigenous Studies, social justice, etc.”</p>	<p>Urban Studies will continue to have instructors from other units and departments (e.g., Sociology, Anthropology) teach its offerings. If the move to Geography occurs, faculty members from that department can provide more course offerings and be involved with students through research grants. This will occur in the mid to long term.</p>	<p>The Dean’s Office will support discussions between Innis College and the Department of Geography & Planning as desired by the units.</p>

3 Committee on Academic Policy & Programs (AP&P) Findings

The spokesperson for the reading group reported that the review summary accurately described the full review, and that the Dean's administrative response adequately addressed all issues identified. The Reading Group sought additional clarification on several areas of the administrative response. This included the recommendation for additional full-time faculty and the existence of any near-term plans to address this need given the proposed transition from Innis College and the Department of Geography and Planning, and if there were any efforts to incorporate methodological themes from other disciplines within the curriculum in the short term. The Reading Group noted that the impact of the move of Urban Studies to Geography and Planning was currently under discussion, and the group looked forward to regular updates as the governance process got underway to address the proposed changes, program impact, and alignment with its future goals and objectives.

Suzanne Wood, Interim Associate Dean, Unit-Level Reviews responded that there were near term plans to address the need for additional full-time faculty. The primary step was to complete the transition of the administrative home from Innis College to the Department of Geography and Planning, which was being rolled out in phases over this year and the next. She noted that the partnership was in discussion to determine its curricular framework.

David Roberts, Director of the Urban Studies Program, Innis College added that the current faculty complement was two, thus facing limitations in implementing the recommendations. He explained that his dual role expanded to the Academic Director of the multidisciplinary urban capstone project. They sourced projects from a wide range of community partners that addressed diverse topics and fostered relationships with experts in departments across the university to adequately support students on the capstone projects. They leveraged expertise in other units, and were in the process of defining the relationship in their new administrative home in the Department of Geography and Planning which would take time to develop. He concluded by noting that they would be happy to update the committee on the governance process.

No follow-up report was requested.

4 Institutional Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the program as successful and innovative with strong overall enrolment, emphasizing community-engaged urban research in the Toronto metropolitan area. They observed that the diverse range of available courses (largely offered through cognate units) provides students with opportunities to design programs of study that are tailored to their interests; and the focus of fourth year courses on community-engaged learning is an exceptional, distinguishing component of the program. The program is highly committed to equity, diversity and inclusion; students express very high satisfaction, and appreciate the program's multidisciplinary nature, flexibility, experiential learning, opportunities to build

networks, critical and equity lens, hands-on experience, and opportunities to work with urban/City professionals. The associated faculty members are highly respected and valued; and the reviewers note that, given the program's exclusive undergraduate focus and only two dedicated teaching stream faculty members, the research record of the Urban Studies program is "remarkable." Finally, the reviewers highlighted that the program enjoys mutual respect and good relations with numerous cognate units at the University.

The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: Addressing challenges around the program's structure, limited resources and very few dedicated faculty, which introduce significant structural vulnerability, and concerns around long-term sustainability; exploring opportunities for greater tenure stream faculty involvement in the program; exploring opportunities for enhanced connection and/or potential integration with cognate units, in particular the Department of Geography and Planning, and the School of Cities; pursuing opportunities for program enhancement, including student internships, externships, study abroad activities, student exchange programs, and research collaborations; identifying and tracking where students go after graduation to aid in future recruitment and fundraising efforts; enhancing engagement with the City of Toronto and other planning agencies; and identifying space for Urban Studies students to study and collaborate.

The Dean's Administrative Response describes the division and program's responses to the reviewers' recommendations, including an implementation plan for any changes necessary as a result.

5 Monitoring and Date of Next Review

The Dean will provide an interim report to the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs no later than midway between the March 2023 UTQAP cyclical review and the year of the next site visit on the status of the implementation plans.

The next review will be commissioned in 2030-31.

6 Distribution

On June 30th 2024, the Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan was posted to the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs website and the link provided by email to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Secretaries of AP&P, Academic Board and Governing Council, and the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance. The Dean provided the link to unit/program leadership.