



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

December 1, 2023

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

RE: Interim Monitoring Report on cyclical review of the Caribbean Studies program

Dear Prof. McCahan,

I write in response to your letter of July 14, 2023, requesting an Interim Monitoring Report on the November 18, 2019, UTQAP cyclical review of the Caribbean Studies program (now the Centre for Caribbean Studies).

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. As you note, under section 6.9.1.4 of the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, a brief status report on the implementation of plans outlined in the Dean's administrative response is due midway between the year of the last and next UTQAP review site visits.

I am pleased to send you this status report in the attached Table, where each of the Implementation Plan recommendations have been addressed with updates from the unit and from the Dean's office on progress made to date.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to prepare this Interim Monitoring Report. The reviewers' comments and recommendations continue to help inform the future priorities of the Centre for Caribbean Studies and its undergraduate programs.

Sincerely,

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

cc.

Dickson Eyoh, Acting Principal, New College

Conrad James, Director, Centre for Caribbean Studies, Faculty of Arts & Science

Suzanne Wood, Special Advisor to the Dean on Unit-Level Reviews, Faculty of Arts & Science

Gillian Hamilton, Associate Dean, Unit-Level Reviews, Faculty of Arts & Science

David Lock, Coordinator, Academic Planning and Reviews, Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

Emma del Junco, Acting Coordinator, Academic Planning and Reviews, Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

Andrea Benoit, Academic Planning & Review Officer, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

UTQAP Cyclical Review Interim Monitoring Report

As required under [UTQAP section 6.9.1.4](#), the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs (VPAP) will request the Interim Monitoring Report from the Dean midway between the year of the last and next site visits.

Centre for Caribbean Studies (Formerly Caribbean Studies program), Faculty of Arts & Science

UTQAP Cyclical Review: November 18, 2019

Review Reported to Governance: October 27, 2020

Request Prompt <i>verbatim from the request</i>	Implementation Plan Update	Supported by Program Innovation Funding (PIF) Provided by VPAP Y/N
<p><i>The reviewers noted that the Caribbean studies program presents an opportunity “to envision a more robust way of encouraging students to deepen their study of various languages” and encouraged coordination with other FAS departments (Spanish and French in particular); they also suggested exploring a “consortium model” of collaborating with other</i></p>	<p>The Centre’s director will continue previously established dialogues with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese (which now houses the Latin American Studies program) and the Department of French to explore the possibilities of delivering collaborative courses, which will deepen the exposure of Caribbean Studies Students to non-anglophone cultures in the region and beyond.</p> <p>Currently, there are two joint courses with Latin American Studies, which is housed in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese (JLN327H1 Regional Perspectives on the Hispanic Caribbean; JLN427H1 Advanced Topics: The Hispanic Caribbean) that have offered students further exposure to different linguistic cultures within the Caribbean. While there is no progress yet on offering a course in Creole, the CSC EDU proposal cites this possibility in its five-year complement plan, which includes identifying a scholar with expertise in this area. The unit will continue to explore its options in offering language courses.</p> <p>The Centre for Caribbean Studies has decided that it will not pursue increased language program requirements.</p>	<p>N</p>

<p><i>universities to offer instruction in Caribbean languages.</i></p>		
<p><i>The reviewers suggested enhancing study abroad opportunities through the expansion of existing relationships with partner institutions, the development of new relationships, and the consolidation of staffing and support for overseas study.</i></p>	<p>The Centre continues to participate in a Belize study abroad opportunity run in collaboration with New College and the Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity program. As part of the Implementation Plan, the Centre successfully established a new summer abroad course in Puerto Rico. ‘Puerto Rican Culture and the Environment’ ran in San Jaun, Puerto Rico for the first time in Summer 2023 in collaboration with the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón. The new Summer Abroad in Puerto Rico offers students the possibility to be immersed in a Spanish Caribbean linguistic environment for the period of the course. The course will run again in 2024 and the Centre is in talks with Sagrado Corazón with a view to expanding both student and faculty mobility between the two institutions. Faculty in the Centre are currently working on proposals for a summer abroad course in Eastern Cuba. The Dean’s office has also facilitated conversation with the Experiential Learning and Outreach Support office to discuss further study abroad opportunities for students that the Centre may want to explore.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p><i>The reviewers noted that “a rich, diverse and robust program of Caribbean studies cannot be sustained with the present tiny cohort of faculty” and encouraged institutional support for increasing the faculty complement, in either languages or social sciences, perhaps as a collaboration between appropriate departments and the Caribbean Studies program.</i></p>	<p>The faculty complement has increased since the external review. A number of new hires, transfers, and cross-appointments are a result of the unit’s transition into EDU:B status, itself a component of the Implementation Plan, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Director at the Associate Professor was hired in July 2021. They are an expert in the Spanish Caribbean and in Caribbean Comparative Literature and hold a minority appointment in the Caribbean Studies Centre. • A new Assistant Professor, Teaching-Stream was hired in November 2022. They are a political scientist jointly appointed with New College with a minority appointment in the Caribbean Studies Centre. • Three additional faculty members now hold minority appointments in the Caribbean Studies Centre. • The Centre is actively engaged in building up a roster of Affiliate Faculty (across the three campuses of the University) whose research is focussed on the Caribbean. <p>The Centre has drawn on the expertise of a faculty member in a cognate department to co-sponsor and co-deliver a course on the Caribbean (JGC439H1: Caribbean Freedom) thus widening the range of offerings at the Centre. The Dean’s office and the unit continue to work together on faculty complement planning as per the terms of the EDU proposal).</p>	<p>N</p>

<p><i>The reviewers observed that the position of Program Director involves considerable additional work building and maintaining relationships with local Caribbean communities and mentoring both students of color and first generation university students; they recommended extra relief from teaching duties and an audit of the full range of tasks undertaken by the Director.</i></p>	<p>The Director of the Centre for Caribbean Studies receives 1.5 FCE teaching release for every year of the appointment.</p> <p>The Centre has also hired staff who now perform some of those outreach duties that previous program directors had performed. These staff also have a mentoring role for students. Staff also participate in outreach initiatives and making community members aware of events taking place in Centre; forging connections with alumni and community organizations that have a stake in Caribbean Studies; organizing public events such as book launches, readings, and seminars that have attracted new participants and visitors from the Caribbean community and have heightened engagement with the Centre’s activities.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p><i>The reviewers stated that “New College and the University need to make a decision as to the mid and long-term future of the Caribbean Studies Program,” and encouraged the Faculty to consider strategies for raising the program’s profile and finding other ways to support it.</i></p>	<p>As of July 1, 2022, Caribbean Studies is now a standalone EDU:B with a new name, the Centre for Caribbean Studies.</p> <p>The unit now has a marketing communications and media officer whose major responsibilities include raising the profile of the Centre through promotional and outreach initiatives. The Centre has several awards/bursaries (formerly distributed through New College) aimed at supporting first generation students and students in need. The student’s union, CARSSU, a vibrant unit in raising the profile of the work done in the Centre, receives yearly funding.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Other recommendations or implementation plans not</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

prioritized in the Request for Administrative Response		
Findings of assessments of program effectiveness, conducted as outlined in the self-study (see section 3.4 of the self-study template for more information)	While the advisory board is no longer in place, there are plans to reconstitute it in slightly different format. The unit currently does have a curriculum committee which assesses student feedback and course effectiveness in general terms, and initiates academic change proposals including course modifications, proposals and closures.	
The status of any additional items discussed at the AP&P meeting as captured in the FAR/IP	No follow-up report was requested.	
Consultation in developing this brief report and (where applicable) a statement of how the Faculty has monitored the implementation of review recommendations	The Dean's office consulted with the Centre's director, who engaged with previous program directors and faculty associated with the previous UTQAP review, as well as others in the Dean's office, to produce this report.	