



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 Health Studies program

Dear Prof. McCahan,

I write in response to your letter of July 14, 2023, requesting an Interim Monitoring Report on the January 17, 2019, UTQAP cyclical review of the Health Studies Undergraduate Program, University College.

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 Health Studies undergraduate programs.

Sincerely,

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

cc.

Markus Stock, Principal, University College

Robert Gibbs, Vice-Principal, University College

Colleen Dockstader, Director, Health Studies Program, 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.

Health Studies Program, University College, Faculty of Arts & Science

UTQAP Cyclical Review: January 17, 2019

Review Reported to Governance: October 30, 2019

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 stated that “it is time to make a decision about the role of the program and commit to that decision” and recommended employing a transparent decision-making process. They noted that many of the concerns listed in 2006 appear to be unaddressed in 2019, including core funding, appointment of permanent faculty, and increasing awareness of the program.</i></p>	<p>This is a Dean’s office priority. In 2022, in response to the UTQAP review of the Health Studies programs at University College, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science commissioned a working group to consider possible responses to reviewer recommendations, including a greater collaboration with the DLSPH, with the goal of ensuring a more sustainable program. The working group, comprising faculty from both Arts & Science (including University College) and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, met over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year to develop recommendations for a renewed Health Studies curriculum.</p> <p>In response to the UTQAP suggestions, several other changes have already been implemented in the Health Studies (HST) program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Curricular changes</u>: curricular changes including the development of 3 new HST courses and increased student access to several relevant, cognate unit courses - <u>Academic leadership</u>: A new Director from the Human Biology Program (HMB) started their appointment in July 2023, strengthening the relationship between HST and HMB. - <u>Strengthening the ties to DLSPH</u> with three courses taught by DLSPH faculty (see next prompt) - <u>New Academic teaching appointments</u>: three new hires in total: a CLTA appointment between HMB / HST (51% / 49%) was established in 2020 (and renewed until 2025); an appointment of an HMB/DLSPH (67%/33%) began in 2021; and an additional position (HMB 515 / UC 49%) was approved in spring 2023 to begin July 2024. 	<p>N</p>

<p><i>The reviewers noted that the program’s current structure and resources do not engender a sense of ongoing stability, continuity or long-term planning. They suggested ways to address this, including ensuring that the participation of faculty from cognate units is undertaken with the active support of their home departments.</i></p>	<p>Since the last review, there has been increased participation of faculty from cognate units, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Health Studies courses (HST211H1: Health Policy in Canada, HST307H1: Special Topics in Health Studies I: Health Policy Development and Change, and HST405H1: Global Migration and Health) are all being taught by DLSPH faculty, which continue to enhance and reinforce the interdisciplinarity of the Health Studies program. • DLSPH and the Human Biology Program (HMB) established a new, shared teaching stream position in 2021. This new faculty member teaches two courses in the HST program on an ongoing, annual basis – PHS100H1: Discovering Global Health and HST405H1/CHL5113H1: Global Migration and Health (cross listed as a graduate course with Dalla Lana) • Two HMB-HST positions listed below in “Establishing a Closer Affiliation with Human Biology Program <p>As noted above, the College has been approved for a second joint appointment with HMB ((51% UC / 49% HMB). University College will work with another cognate unit, such as Geography and Planning, Anthropology, and DLSPH to approach the Faculty Appointments Committee for an additional net-new joint hire for the program (51% cognate unit /49% UC).</p> <p>Most recently, as mentioned above, the Dean’s office set up a Public Health Curriculum Working Group comprising faculty from both A&S (HMB and HST/UC) and the DLSPH, and spent the 2022-2023 academic year reviewing and evolving the existing Health Studies program and curriculum. A proposal for a major modification of the Health Studies program, including a name change to Public Health Studies, is currently underway.</p> <p>Finally, at the level of the Faculty, a new budget model is currently being developed that could help recognize the work that Departments do in providing service teaching outside their units, including in College programs such as Health Studies.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p><i>The reviewers identified barriers to providing Health Studies students with practical research opportunities.</i></p>	<p>HST has been largely quite successful in placing students enrolled in research stream courses (HST450Y/451Y) with faculty research opportunities throughout A&S and beyond the university (such as Christie Gardens, CanAge). The HST400Y and HST480H courses have provided practicum placements to many students.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p><i>The reviewers stated that, if the Health Studies program is to be maintained, it needs to strengthen its identity and improve its resources. They identified opportunities for doing so.</i></p>	<p>A number of initiatives have been taken to strengthen identity and improve resources, including:</p> <p>Dalla Lana School of Public Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned, a continuing teaching-stream position shared between DLSPH and HMB was established in 2021. This faculty member teaches two courses in the HST program on an ongoing, annual basis – PHS101H1: Discovering Global Health and HST405/CHL5113 Global Migration and Health (cross-listed with DLSPH) 	<p>N</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently DLSPH staff regularly teach 3 courses. <p>Two new courses (PHS103 Introduction to Public Health and HST253 Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Public Health), which would be taught by faculty at the DLSPH, have been developed, and are currently underway to go through College and Faculty governance in 2023-24. (When approved, these changes would increase DLSPH representation from ~7% teaching representation to ~30% teaching representation.)</p> <p>In 2020, the Department of Geography & Planning (GGR) made changes to priority enrolments so that it is easier for Health Studies students to access their courses.</p> <p>After consultations undertaken by the Director October/November 2023, the unit commitments were made with four cognate A&S departments to provide course availability to HST students in 2024-25 academic year in domains that intersect with public health and that HST students perceive as of critical interest to them.</p>	
<p><i>Given the interdisciplinary nature of the program, the reviewers observe that greater effort for collaboration between faculty members with regards to the objectives of the Health Studies program would enhance the program and the student experience. They also noted the possible benefits of a closer affiliation with the Human Biology program.</i></p>	<p>In July 2023, a new Director, from the HMB program, was appointed to Health Studies for a 3-year period, which brings closer affiliation between the programs.</p> <p>In 2020, an agreement was struck with Human Biology so that Health Studies students take their course, HMB342H1: Epidemiology of Health and Disease, as part of their program requirements.</p> <p>As noted above, a new CLTA shared between Human Biology (51%) and University College (49%) was appointed for a term of three years as of September 1, 2020. This position was renewed for two more years – to June 2025. This faculty member teaches in the HST program: HMB342H1: Epidemiology of Health and Disease, which is a required course for Health Studies students. This faculty member also developed, and currently teaches HST305H1: Perspectives in Health, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race; HST306H1: Health, Nutrition, and Food Security; and HST407H1: Special Topics in Health Studies - Public Health Policy: Policy Engagement and Action. These courses ensure that Health Studies students have access to a more diverse array of courses.</p> <p>As noted above, UC and HMB were approved by the Faculty Appointments Committee in spring 2023 for a new, jointly appointed (51% HMB, 49% UC) assistant professor teaching-stream, to start effective July 2024. The search is ongoing.</p>	N
<p>Other recommendations or implementation plans not prioritized in the Request for Administrative Response</p>	N/A	

<p>Findings of assessments of program effectiveness, conducted as outlined in the self-study (see section 3.4 of the <i>self-study template for more information</i>)</p>	<p>The Health Studies program regularly assesses program effectiveness through the UC Curriculum Committee and UC Executive Committees, which meets a few times a year to discuss curriculum effectiveness and potential opportunities for ongoing program improvement. The HST Director has regular meetings with the HSSU, as well as open meetings for all HST students (for example, the semi-annual Health Studies General Meeting). These regular meetings provide opportunities to discuss program suggestions, concerns, and opportunities directly with students.</p>	
<p>The status of any additional items discussed at the AP&P meeting as captured in the FAR/IP</p>	<p>A one-year follow-up report was requested to address the status of relationships with cognate units and the efficacy of the CLTAs in creating a more sustainable offering. Updates on both items are reflected in the updates above. The report was presented to AP&P on October 27, 2020.</p>	
<p>Consultation in developing this brief report and (where applicable) a statement of how the Faculty has monitored the implementation of review recommendations</p>	<p>The Dean's office consulted with the Director of the program, who also consulted with previous HST Directors, as well as other senior leadership within the Dean's office, to develop this report.</p>	