

**Academic Standards Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee of Senate  
Special Sub-Committee on New Faculty Curriculum**

**Record of Consultation**

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| Date                  | Wednesday, June 12, 2019  |
| Unit and Programs     | Department of Social Science and constituent programs   |
| Attendees             | Amanda Glasbeck, Chair<br>Uwa Idemudia (Current IDS Coordinator, Incoming Chair of SOSC)<br>Doug Young (Coordinator, Urban Studies)<br>Viviana Patroni (GPD, Development Studies)<br>Mark Peacock (UPD and Incoming Coordinator, BUSO)<br>Jay Goulding (Social Science Executive) |
| Sub-Committee Members | Kim Michasiw, Chair of ASCP, Chair<br>Liette Gilbert, Co-Coordinator (FES)<br>Alice Horvoka, Dean, Environmental Studies<br>Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic<br>Tarmo Remmel, Co-Coordinator (Geography)<br>Robert Everett, Secretary  |

**Status of the April Proposal / Consultation History**

The meeting began with clarifications about the status of the draft proposal circulated for feedback in April (which contained preliminary ideas about curriculum intended to stimulate thinking and open channels) and the history of consultations with the Department and its constituent programs. Past consultations had been both formal and informal in nature. They subsided abruptly and were inconclusive. It was somewhat surprising to colleagues to see that the proposal referenced possibilities that directly or indirectly impacted on Social Science activities and plans. Proponents confirmed that the draft proposal neither prescribed partnerships nor precluded other possibilities. Dean Hovorka stressed that the narrative has evolved from asking programs about their interest in joining the new Faculty to emphasizing opportunities for collaboration. Participants at the meeting had access to a “menu of options” that emerged from discussions with the School of Administrative Studies / Disaster and Emergency Management illustrating a range of possibilities – not exhaustive and not necessarily applicable in all situations – and this helped formed a backdrop as the meeting progressed. Colleagues in Social Science reiterated their commitment to the integrity of the current array of programs in the Department. There are already many curricular affinities and collegial interactions between Social Science and the new Faculty (cross-listings, summer courses, courses on extended lists, supervision, teaching and research) upon which to build relationships.

## **The Evolving Curriculum Context**

The discussion touched on a variety of topics relevant to curriculum planners:

- the Provost's Office is in the process of developing a new inter-Faculty framework for funding and administrative arrangements that will facilitate cooperation within the SHARP model
- in general, there need to be focused conversations aimed at greater clarity for students along with facilitation of the kind of mobility that permits them to explore a rich, pan-University curriculum

One way to imagine the overall curriculum structure and relationship between programs is an evolving series of clearly marked pathways that foster mobility and collaboration.

## **Focus on International Development Studies / Development Studies**

Social Science is home to both an undergraduate and graduate degree. FES has a dual credential degree program in conjunction with Humber (although there are no current enrolments). Proponents of the new Faculty also place an accent on Global dimensions. Participants discussed how they might collaborate as a PhD program proposal emerging from Social Science. This resulted in agreement that there should be a focused, sustained discussion aimed at greater clarity of role and non-competition. It was suggested that it would be helpful to think in terms of pathways.

## **Focus on Business and Society**

BUSO currently has an Environment Stream that relies almost exclusively on FES courses. The most recent CPR included a closure recommendation due to insufficient enrolments and curriculum deficiency. Faculty members attached to BUSO are, however, unwilling to abandon the stream and are willing to develop in house curriculum to sustain it. Even so, the stream could only prosper in cooperation with FES and BUSO, suggesting a timely moment for deeper conversations. BUSO has a well-developed practicum network that could encompass an eco-dimension. It was also suggested the new Faculty and BUSO consider major-minor combinations, service courses, multiple entry points to programs, and other connections.

## **Focus on Urban Studies**

There will be a concentration of urbanists in the new Faculty, and there are worries about overlap, duplication and confusion among students. Bringing together urbanists in the new Faculty will stimulate interest in new programs and streams within the new Faculty and the urban at York more broadly. From the standpoint of Urban Studies, a recent curriculum refresh (for example, all new courses have Urban in their title) has revitalized interest. These and other facets argue in favour of a portal concept rather

than integration into the new Faculty. The following may be germane as consultations unfold:

- development of joint programming
- laddering degrees (a number of Urban Studies graduates already pursue higher degrees in FES and Geography)
- cluster hires
- purpose-build shared courses
- alignment of existing course offerings and resources

It was agreed that the program and new Faculty curriculum designers would explore scenarios. There was also agreement on how certain areas might be apportioned.

### **Outcomes and Next Steps**

Urbanists should form a table at which ideas about ramping up this interdisciplinary area can be further developed. In the meantime, the FES-Geography curriculum working group can continue its development of ideas regarding urban planning, urban environments, global and the like. The discussions will be long term in nature but should be continuous. One question to be resolved is resource balancing and how the complement can be deployed with greater effectiveness.

It is expected that discussions involving BUSO will be scheduled for the autumn of 2019 and with IDS in 2019-2020.

Since strengthening and profiling the “Urban @ York” is a shared priority, planners should seek institutional backing for collegial efforts.

The Sub-Committee extended an invitation to Social Science colleagues to renew discussions when a proposal for the establishment of the new Faculty is refined (September). This was readily accepted.

Social Science agreed to designate a point person, likely the Chair, for liaison with the Sub-Committee.