

Undergraduate Program Review

Translation, BA

Executive Summaries

This program review predates the implementation of the York University Quality Assurance Policy (October 2010) and related Procedures (November 2011). The completion of this review encountered delays owing to the transition to the new policy and procedures. Accordingly, this final assessment report bridges the old process with the new. Given these circumstances, this final assessment report may include recommendations from reviewers that may have already been accomplished. In those instances, the report will reflect where progress has been achieved.

The Undergraduate Program Review (UPR) of the Bachelor of Arts in Translation was conducted in November 2008. The Consultants were: Dr. Clara Foz (University of Ottawa, external) and Dr. Carol Fraser (Department of English, Glendon College, York University, internal).

Following receipt of unit and decanal responses to the consultants' report, members of the Senate Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance met with the following program/Faculty representatives on January 9, 2012 to review progress toward implementing recommendations and opportunities for program enhancement:

Kenneth McRoberts, Principal, Glendon College
Andrew Clifford, chair, School of Translation

Program strengths:

The reviewers highlighted several strengths of the program including that:

- the program objectives are clearly defined (all programs at York are required to submit program objectives in the form of degree level expectations, required competences and program learning outcomes)
- admissions standards are high and student satisfaction is high
- the program offers a variety of pathways to degree completion
- the Centre for French-language and Bilingual Post-secondary Education by the Ontario government
- there are significant linkages with the profession, through alumni as well as its internship program.

Opportunities for program enhancement:

Various recommendations for strengthening the program were made and the program has made considerable progress toward responding to the recommendations in the reviewers' report including:



- actively seeking external sources of funding, raising considerable external funding from federal, provincial and other sources
- seeking out innovative programming (including branching out into non-official languages) and expanding online course offerings to better meet the needs of its student demographic
- raising its profile through a significantly enhanced online marketing presence to better reach its potential applicant pool and to reinvigorate relationships with the profession
- offering a new direct-entry admissions option in an effort to meet its enrolment targets
- building joint offerings and fostering its existing relationship with Hispanic Studies.

Prioritized recommendations for implementation:

A few initiatives were prioritized by the program including:

- advancing the already successful internship program toward a more global perspective (increasing international experiences for students)
- increasing the pool of qualified applicants - while the program is in demand and various pathways to degree completion are in place, the pool of qualified applicants is relatively low and there is a high failure rate on the entrance exam. A new course is in place to help students prepare for the exam and emphasis will continue to be focussed here.

In light of the extent to which recommendations have been completed and reported, an 18 month follow up is not necessary and this review of programs in Translation is considered complete.

Rhonda Lenton, Vice-Provost Academic
November 2012