

October 17, 2017

Dr. Ulrike Hardenbicker, Acting Head
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Arts
University of Regina

Dear Dr. Hardenbicker:

Re: Academic Unit Review

Thank you for meeting with us on Thursday, September 21, 2017 to review the Unit Report and give us your preliminary verbal response. The exchange was fruitful and we hope that any initial impressions you received from us at the meeting will be useful as you craft your unit's written response to the report. We were pleased that the unit felt that a number of recommendations will be helpful in its efforts to meet the changing needs of their students and faculty. We encourage the unit to think carefully about a focused graduate program in line with the reviewers' recommendations. Equally, in light of current fiscal challenges in the Faculty of Arts, we recognize that the unit will be given limited resource support from the Dean, which will then limit their capacity to respond to the recommendations. As to the unit's written response to CCAM, the committee is amenable to the unit submitting their response to CCAM in January 2018 when Dr. Hodder, Head of Geography and Environmental Studies returns from his sabbatical.

While we do not want the written response to repeat at length the material already in the Self Study, we would appreciate if your written response would touch upon the following areas taken from the Academic Unit Review Operations Manual (OPS-130-005) when and where appropriate:

"These reviews will focus on the following areas:

- the priorities and aspirations of each unit and the extent to which they are being realized
- the challenges and opportunities faced by the unit
- the structure and quality of undergraduate and graduate programs and instruction
- the contribution of each program to related disciplines and fields of study
- the scope and significance of research being pursued
- the degree to which academic programs meet students' learning needs and goals
- the characteristics of staffing complements
- the degree to which the unit is meeting its internal and external service responsibilities

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- the role the unit plays in meeting the University's vision, mission, goals and priorities
- the financial resources of the unit"
- Indigenization of the unit in coordination with the University of Regina's strategic plan

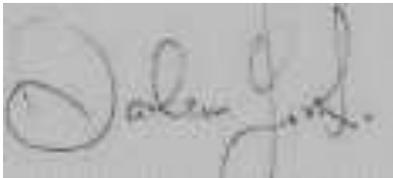
In particular, we hope your written response will provide:

- an elaboration on any report recommendations your unit disagrees with
- an itemized list of what actions your unit will take to implement the report's findings

The committee looks forward to meeting with the unit again in 15 – 18 months to discuss the health of the unit and its engagement with the recommendations of the review. In five-years' time it is anticipated that the unit will submit a 5-year update to CCAM.

We look forward to your unit's formal written response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.M. Juschka". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of the list of names.

Dr. D.M. Juschka (Chair)

Dr. Garth Huber

Dr. Nilgun Onder

Shawn Wiskar

Unit Review Subcommittee, Council Committee on Academic Mission