

December 11, 2019

Marcel Decoste  
Department of English  
Faculty of Arts  
University of Regina

Re: Verbal response to External Review

Dear Professor Decoste,

Thank you for meeting with CCAM colleagues on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the External Reviewers' Report and provide us with your preliminary response. Your comments to the committee regarding the review was very helpful, and it is our hope the discussion will be useful as you craft your written response to the report. My apologies for the delay in responding to what we hope was a useful discussion.

The next step of the process is for the Department to prepare a response to CCAM and the Provost's Office. We ask for the following considerations in the preparation of your response.

- 1) Please comment on each of the external reviewer recommendations. This should highlight on any of the report recommendations your unit disagrees with and the rationale for the same, and include a workplan outlining the actions your unit will take to implement the report's findings.
- 2) Please place these comments within the context of the areas of focus as noted in the Academic Unit Review Operations Manual (OPS-130-005) and University's broad goals of student success, research impact, and commitment to community within the overarching themes of Indigenization and Sustainability.
- 3) CCAM recognizes that the external reviewers had extensive recommendations for the English Department and a good part of the discussion was how spent quickly on how the Department could be to come to a full response. While recognizing the size of the task in front of the department, we would hope that it has made significant in implementing a response by the time the department next meets with CCAM. We encouraged the

department to use outside support to speed it in this process: to facilitate discussion at a retreat and conduct research into existing practice being two examples. The committee recognized that the department has done a lot of work on Alumni engagement and is giving careful consideration to branding. It faces some unique curricular and staffing challenges because of the role that English 100 plays in University wide curriculum. We are encouraged that it recognizes the need to review its overall curriculum first and that it is working to find procedural ways to keep this need front and centre in the coming years.

The committee looks forward to meeting with the unit next year to discuss the health of the unit. In advance of the 15-18 month meeting, please provide an informal written note to CCAM outlining your progress on each of the reviewer's recommendations.

In four years it is anticipated that the unit will submit a final update to CCAM demonstrating the achievements of the unit as a result of the Academic Unit Review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Farney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Farney, Chair  
Council Committee on Academic Mission

cc: Dr. Thomas Chase, Provost and Vice-President Academic  
Dr. Kleer, Dean, Faculty of Arts