

January 29, 2024

Dr. Stewart Wilson, Head
Department of Justice Studies
Faculty of Arts

Dear Dr. Wilson:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with CCAM on January 8, 2024 and providing the 15-18 month update on your Department's progress in implementing the Academic Unit Review recommendations. We appreciate that you and your faculty members have embraced numerous recommendations from the external report and are actively engaged in re-imagining the curricula and programs offered by Justice Studies.

The re-evaluation of programs and degrees as part of the curriculum mapping process is a massive and labour intensive undertaking. It says a great deal about the leadership, the morale and the enthusiasm of the faculty members who have not only engaged with the academic unit review process but are collectively working towards achieving the goals as laid out in the recommendations of the external report. CCAM members also made mention of the wisdom in the planned second mapping process to ensure that the newly developed curricula work within the newly re-designed programs. There was, however, considerable concern expressed that given the current faculty complement much of the labour for this project is being supplied by junior faculty at the time in their careers when they will also be establishing research agendas/programs, developing courses and networking. It is the committee's hope that the department is ensuring that a collegial balance between these competing interests has been found and is being followed.

The committee is cognizant that almost all of the work being done in response to the academic unit review is in progress. Your report provides a snapshot "of a moment in time"; a very dynamic moment when many elements are moving simultaneously. As such, commenting on a durational process that is nowhere near completion would be unwise but the committee does offer some guidance. The committee encourages the faculty members working on the revised curricula to continue working towards the goal of creating programs with more flexibility, shared courses and collaborating with partners within (and possibly outside) of the Faculty of Arts. The timeline given for this stage of the project is realistic but it is predicated on everything and everyone being collegial and effective and the committee is wondering what happens if this is not the case. Can the department manage a year or two as is, if the timeline for the redevelopment is stalled? Finally, the committee recommends that the Faculty/department develop indicators to assess and measure the resulting curricular changes and see how they affect the outcomes for students.

Noting that the department has lost several faculty members in recent times, CCAM encourages the Department Head to work with the Dean to develop a plan for filling the vacant faculty positions.

We thank you again for meeting with CCAM. In a few years, the committee looks forward to hearing back from the department around the successes of these curricular changes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require any assistance.

Sincerely,



Wes Pearce
Chair, CCAM

Cc: Dr. Isabelle Dostaler, Provost, Vice-President (Academic)
Dr. Nilgün Önder, AVP (Academic)
Dr. Shannon Dea, Dean of Arts