

4-YEAR POST IQAP FOLLOW-UP REPORT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM	IQAP REVIEW DATE	PREPARED BY
Classical Studies	May 1, 2014	Dean of Arts Science

PROGRESS OF PPC RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	% COMPLETE	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	EXPECTED COMPLETION
New Myth and Religion Course	100	Dr. Richard Wenghofer	Completed
Mediterranean Travel Course	90	Dr. Richard Wenghofer	April, 2018
Course Material in Classical Tradition	100	Dr. Richard Wenghofer	Completed
Streamlining of Program Structure	100	Dr. Richard Wenghofer	Completed
Review of Language Requirements	100	Dr. Richard Wenghofer	Completed

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

The Classical Studies program at Nipissing has fully implemented all of the recommendations of PPC arising out of the last IQAP Review of the Classical Studies program in May 2014. Accompanying this template (see below) is a detailed description of the actions taken by the Classical Studies program in response to the most recent IQAP Review.

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS LEADING UP TO NEXT REVIEW

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	PROJECTED COMPLETION
Request for additional tenure track position	Dr. Richard Wenghofer	Completed

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/NEXT STEPS

In May 2014 the external reviewers for the IQAP Review of the Classical Studies program at Nipissing University was received. What follows below is a point-by-point response of the Classical Studies program to the recommendations made by the external reviewers contained in Section C – Opportunities for Improvement and Enhancement.

1. “The appointment of a third faculty member seems vital to sustaining the quality of the programs.”

The Classical Studies Program (CSP) requested an additional faculty member in December of 2013 (ahead of the review). This request was denied at the time. Since then, the faculty complement situation has become more challenging still as Dr. Ilse Mueller, the former Program Coordinator, died in October of 2016. Another tenure track position was requested in December 2016 in order to replace Dr. Mueller, but this request was also denied. The CSP, which used to have one tenured faculty, one tenure track faculty, and one limited term appointment (LTA), has now been reduced to one tenured faculty and one LTA. To remedy this serious situation, we have again requested a tenure track position to replace Dr. Mueller and have also requested an LTA position in order to bring up the faculty complement to what it was prior to Dr. Mueller’s departure.

2. “Enhanced administrative support.”

The reviewers indicated that the lack of departmental administrative support, as found at all other Ontario universities, has been pointed out by previous reviewers in 2005 and continues to be a problem. Administrative work is not an effective use of faculty time which should be devoted to research and teaching rather than clerical work. As this item is not within the power of the CSP to remedy, this point is left for the relevant parties to consider.

3. “We suggest that the website for the program be improved for the purposes of recruitment, for example a YouTube video by one of the professors that highlights some of the unique features of the program.”

The CSP has already revised the CSP website and continues to do so as the program evolves.

4. “We would recommend that the program coordinator consider revising Myth and Religion courses (CLAS 2006 and CLAS 2007) to a one semester course in mythology at the second year level. If necessary there could be an additional third year course in religions of the ancient world (which could include Christianity).”

This change has already been made. CLAS 2006 – Myth and Religion in Ancient Greece and CLAS 2007 – Myth and Religion in Ancient Rome have been replaced by CLAS 2017 – Ancient Myth and Religion (currently awaiting Senate approval). In addition, the CSP has established a new third year course, CLAS 3067 – Religious Conflict in the Ancient World which addresses, among other matters, the rise, spread, and ultimate triumph of Christianity in the Roman Empire.

5. “The possibility of a course that incorporates some form of travel to the Mediterranean could be a very strong incentive for students, based on our knowledge of other programs. As we have noted, art and archaeology are not areas of strength at Nipissing, but there are several available at other institutions for summer travel, or for archaeological experience. We recommend that Nipissing’s Classical Studies program investigate these possibilities.”

The CSP is currently in the process of repurposing the course CLAS 3505 – Directed Studies into a Summer Course abroad. Two models are currently under review by the CSP. One approach would be to attach the course to one of the existing field schools (i.e. the British School at Athens, the British School at Rome, the Balkan Heritage Field School, the British Museum etc.) where students would undertake one of their summer programs for credit (through CLAS 3505). Alternatively, the CSP could simply develop its own summer study course abroad (again through CLAS 3505) where the curriculum and location would be determined by the research interests and area of expertise of the faculty member teaching the course. In either case, our now deceased colleague, Dr. Ilse Mueller, has left part of her estate as an endowment for a Classical Studies scholarship at Nipissing and it is the intention of the CSP to apply those funds to defray the cost of travel for this course for the scholarship recipient.

6. “We encourage the current faculty to consider creating a course in the Classical Tradition that includes films, but is not exclusively based on films (which can be an expensive project), to broaden the appeal of Classical Studies for non-majors.”

The CSP now has a course, CLAS 2706 – The Ancient World in Modern Popular Media, which addresses this recommendation directly. Additionally, the CSP is in the process of overhauling the entire Classical Studies curriculum. These changes, which will embed a greater concentration on Classical Tradition across all CSP courses, have already passed through ARCC and USC and are now awaiting final approval from senate.

7. “We recommend streamlining the program requirements....i.e. students would be required to take a certain number of second and third year courses, rather than selections from particular groups....”

As mentioned above, the CSP is in the process of overhauling the entire Classical Studies curriculum. The primary purpose of the curriculum overhaul is to address the very issue raised in this particular comment. The list of courses that students must take has been reduced. Aside from these core courses (CLAS 1006, 1007, 3316, 3436, 4436, and 4427), students must take a stipulated number of courses at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 levels depending upon the degree program in which the student is enrolled.

8. “We wonder whether the requirement to take one of the two ancient languages as part of an Honours (as distinct from a Specialized Honours) program in Classical Studies would improve the rate of survival – or simply discouraging students from registering in the program in the first place. Therefore we suggest that faculty canvass students to get a feeling for how this might affect enrollments. It may be noted that at the University of Guelph the requirement to take three semesters of either Greek or Latin has not prevented more than fifty Major Honours students from facing the challenge.”

As mentioned above, the CSP is in the process of overhauling the entire Classical Studies curriculum. Among the changes in degree requirements that have been tabled are changes to the Honours Specialization Program, which stipulate that students enrolled in this particular program must take a minimum of 18 credits in either ancient Greek or Latin (or both). This constitutes three semesters in ancient Greek and/or Latin as per the recommendation and is an increase in the number of language credits under the former degree structure which only required 12 credits. We have not undertaken a study of student feelings on the language requirement since for those who wish to go on to graduate studies, proficiency in the languages is not negotiable, and for those who do not wish to go on to graduate school, the other degree programs (i.e. the Specialization, the Major, and the Minor) have no language requirements.

9. “The student Classics Club could consider networking with similar clubs at other Ontario institutions in order to generate new projects and possibly collaborate in student conferences, and other endeavors.”

In the recent past the Classical Studies Club was one of the largest student clubs at NU with around 100 members, however, since the vitality of the club ebbs and flows with the changing student body, it has languished of late. This year, however, we have encouraged a new group of Classical Studies students to revive the Classical Studies club which we see as an important amenity for NU students and a useful vehicle for marketing the program as a whole. In the past, the club has held movie nights, ROM fieldtrips, and arranged for guest speakers from other institutions. The new club, which is currently enrolling new members, will continue these activities and develop new ones, especially with a view to community engagement (i.e. theatrical productions, public talks etc.). We are very much looking forward to the revival of our club.

Dr. Richard Wenghofer,
Program Coordinator,
Classical Studies,
Nipissing University