

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
TO THE REGULAR February 2013 SENATE**

FOR INFORMATION

Recommendations and Commendations of ACAPLAN following the Undergraduate Program Review: ANTHROPOLOGY

Laurentian's Anthropology Department, which became an independent unit in 2005, offers either a B.A or a B.Sc. in either a three or four-year stream, English only.

The Department's self-study was completed in February 2012, although one member submitted a minority report to the review team. The team was led by Dr. Ann Herring, a full professor at McMaster University who is a specialist in the anthropology of infectious disease, currently focusing on Aboriginal peoples, and on campus she was joined by Dr. Linda Ambrose (History) and Dr. Charlotte Leonard (Music). The two students on the committee were Liisa Blomme in the fourth year of the B.A stream and Kaitlyn Malleau in the fourth year of the B.Sc stream.

The review took place on April 23 and 24, 2012 and Dr. Herring delivered the committee's report on May 16. Overall, the reviewers commented that "the department's programs and courses fit very well into LU's Academic Plan in the areas of building health communities, clean water now and forever, resource development for an evolving world, and education for our future." The team also noted that it would be very likely necessary to replace at least three potential retirees over the next few years and that new hires had the potential of enhancing the university's commitment to welcoming more Aboriginal faculty as well as Aboriginal content in the curriculum.

The Department's (generally supportive) response to the review was received on July 4, and on September 26, 2012 the Dean, Dr. Dawes, made her own comments.

The Department

Student Issues

1. Commendations
 - a. N/A
2. Recommendations
 - a. The Chair should assume responsibility for student advising.

Program Issues

1. Commendations
 - a. The Department, which was in danger of having its enrollment suspended after its 2004 review, responded well to earlier recommendations: "A 5-year curriculum planning process was established and steps were taken to reconsider and relax prerequisites; reduce the number of required courses; make sure that courses are cycled in a systematic way and that students were made aware of the cycle; broader

- students' options for taking courses in cognate departments; and provide sabbatical replacements in order that students may complete their degrees on time.”
- b. The curriculum is “structured and delivered in an appropriate manner, with clear learning objectives and outcomes, and a logical progression towards increasingly sophisticated content and skills acquisition from first to fourth year.”
 - c. There is a “relatively large number of opportunities for experiential education available to anthropology’s students, *greater than would be expected in a department of this size.*”
 - d. The Department is serving an important role by providing service courses for other programs and departments. This is further evidence of how much the Department is implicated in helping the university achieve broader academic goals.

2. Recommendations

- a. The Department should identify more field courses for students to take in cognate areas to enhance its strength in applied anthropology and help prepare students for postgraduate careers.
- b. Given the potential downsizing of the Department, a traditional four-field program may not be viable (archaeology, plus cultural, physical, linguistic anthropology). Under the circumstances, the Department should consider taking a thematic approach to the curriculum since this would create connections between courses and sub disciplines, would highlight learning niches within the program, would allow students to focus on areas of particular interest, and could be used to highlight Anthropology’s alignment with LU’s strategic areas.
- c. Given the constraints that the impending retirements will impose, the Department also needs to make even more formal arrangements to allow more courses from other departments to count toward an anthropology degree.
- d. The Department’s policy for the thesis option is far too bureaucratic and not student-friendly. It should consider dropping ANTR 4095 from its menu of courses especially given that the thesis option is not a requirement in many anthropology programs in Canada—even at the Master’s level.
- e. Students would like to have more access to courses in Forensic Science.

Faculty and Staff Issues

1. Recommendations on Governance

- a. The Chair should reinstate regular, monthly, faculty meetings for open discussions of departmental business.
- b. One representative of the sessional instructors, with voting privileges, should attend the meetings, as is mandated by the Collective Agreement.¹ The Sessional Representative could participate via phone or Skype.

¹ In the CA, 4.30.5 reads: “Sessional Members shall have the right to attend Departmental/School meetings. In terms of voting rights, Sessional Members shall have the right of up to two (2) voting representatives as elected annually by the Sessional Members teaching in the respective Department/School. The number of sessional voting

- c. One student representative, selected by the Department, should be invited to attend department meetings.

2. Recommendations on Personnel

- a. As it turns to new hires, the Department should seek a development anthropologist to enhance the Department's strength in cultural anthropology and applied anthropology, and to train students to collaborate on and evaluate development projects in Northern Ontario. This is another opportunity for the Department to align with LU's priority on building healthy communities and to hire an Aboriginal scholar.
- b. The Department should also consider hiring a medical anthropologist whose research takes place in an Aboriginal setting, preferably in Northern Ontario. This is another excellent opportunity to hire an Aboriginal scholar and align with the University's priority on building healthy communities.
- c. Connections should be nurtured with medical anthropologists at NOSM (Kristen Jacklin and Marion Maar) to build even greater capacity, perhaps creating a minor in Aboriginal community health, disease and healing.
- d. The Department should also explore partnerships with Indigenous Studies at University of Sudbury to create more opportunities for students in local, Aboriginal settings.

Research Issues

1. Commendations
 - a. N/A
2. Recommendations
 - a. N/A

Vice-President Academic and Provost

1. Recommendations
 - a. There is a toxic work environment that has *long affected* the governance of the Department as well as its expansion. (The Academic Plan explicitly states that "in responding to requests for hires, Deans/University Librarian shall consider the cohesiveness and functionality of the Department /school making such requests.") **This needs to be addressed.**

representatives shall be determined by the number of full-time Members in the Department/School." Given the number of full-time members in the Anthropology Department, that would be 1.

The Dean

1. Recommendations

- a) The Archeology and Physical Anthropology Teaching Laboratory (FA-040) requires upgrading and renovation since currently it *is not an ideal teaching environment for students or instructors*. Accordingly the Dean should seek funds to:
 - Install a permanent projector in an appropriate location;
 - Improve the lighting, install more fixtures, and ensure that instructors are not forced to teach in the dark;
 - Improve internet connectivity;
 - Reconfigure the desks and chairs so that they are flexible and moveable.
- b) Because licensed archaeologists have an obligation to properly curate materials under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the archaeology laboratory space (A-006 to A-010) should:
 - immediately be upgraded to prevent water damage and to create a climate controlled environment
 - the collections should be consolidated into moveable storage and state of the art shelving
 - to meet health and safety standards, a fume hood must be installed in the wet lab portion of the facility (A-010).
- c) Finally because A-009 has a collection of human remains and there is a difference of opinion whether or not they are Aboriginal, the Dean should seek
- d) funds to pay for an expert opinion preferably from a physical anthropologist with extensive expertise in North American Native remains. In the event that the remains are Aboriginal, further money needs to be set aside for appropriate re-interment.

The Archaeological Survey of Laurentian University²

1. Recommendations

- a) The Department needs the on-going support of a part-time technician or academic assistant (perhaps 15-20 hours per week) to manage collections, order and take care of equipment, set up and put away teaching materials, assist with archaeological field schools, prepare collections for visiting scholars, and so on. The ASLU should support this person because the survey is using university space without otherwise really being much of a benefit to the university. The technician position presents an opportunity to hire an Aboriginal person.

² The ASLU is a consulting firm that runs through the department and brings in some money in contracts.