

**MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT  
PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE  
April 2013**

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**The Program Quality Assurance Committee recommends to Senate that the following report on the external review of the degree programs offered by Modern Languages and Literatures be approved.**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On April 10, 2013, the Trent University Program Quality Assurance Committee (PQAC) reviewed and approved the following Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Final Assessment Report. The Committee was satisfied that the program quality assurance process provided a clear and helpful review of the work of the Trent University Modern Languages Department for the time period since its last review in 2004/5.

In their report, the reviewers recommended substantial changes in the Department of Modern Languages in order to take advantage of its strength and to align with institutional priorities. They indicated that they found that French Studies is “alive and well, with unique sets of strengths in language practice, contemporary literature, creative writing, and science fiction” and voiced support for stabilizing and strengthening the program in part through an expansion of the faculty complement. They also presented suggestions for improvement of the curriculum and language practice.

Particular challenges in the Hispanic Studies program include a drastic reduction in the number of faculty members from four several years ago to one. PQAC concurs with the reviewers that the program has great potential given the importance of Spanish on a global scale but that the future success of the program will depend on an increase in the number of tenure-stream faculty.

With no core faculty complement and low enrollments, the German program was deemed by the reviewers to not be viable. Since the review, an institutional decision was made to close the German program but to continue to offer a small number of courses.

While recognizing current budgetary constraints, the Program Quality Assurance Committee wishes to emphasize the importance of language studies at Trent and their role in interdisciplinary studies, liberal arts training, internationalization and the support of other programs.

**INTRODUCTION, ASSESSMENT AND OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM**

The program was reviewed by Dr. Suzanne Crosta, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, McMaster University, Dr. Sonia Thon, Department of Hispanic Studies, Acadia University, and Dr. Olga Andriewsky, Department of History, Trent University. A site visit was scheduled and conducted March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Objective: to assess the academic programs in French, German and Hispanic Studies as well as the suite of adjunct language offerings available in the Department of Modern Languages at Trent University.

**ASSESSMENT**

German Studies – Non-Viable

Hispanic Studies – Good Quality with Report

French Studies – Good Quality with Report

Emphasis in Linguistics – Good Quality with Report

**RECOMMENDATIONS SELECTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

*Please note: Only those recommendations selected for implementation are included in this report. Recommendations that do not require report have not been included.*

**Recommendation #1 (French)**

**We recommend that the French section review their periodic offerings of literary survey courses for both French and francophone literatures and ensure that all periods are reflected and covered in their course offerings.**

*Approval required by:* USC/Senate  
*Resources provided by:* Department  
*Executor:* Department  
*Timeline for acting on:* planning in 2013/14 for 2014/15 Academic year  
*Timeline for monitoring:* January 2014

**Recommendation #2 (French)**

**We recommend that courses dealing with Canadian/Québécois or French history should be part of the requirements or proposed electives of the majors (Honours and General).**

*Approval required by:* USC/Senate  
*Resources provided by:* Department  
*Executor:* Department  
*Timeline for acting on:* planning in 2013/14 for 2014/15 Academic year  
*Timeline for monitoring:* January 2014

**Recommendation #3 (French)**

**We therefore highly recommend that language practice courses be revamped so as to give greater emphasis on oral proficiency.**

*Approval required by:* USC/Senate  
*Resources provided by:* Department/Dean  
*Executor:* Department  
*Timeline for acting on:* planning in 2013/14 for 2014/15 Academic year  
*Timeline for monitoring:* January 2014

**Recommendation #4 (French)**

**We therefore recommend that administration provide the French section with one full-time multi-year appointment (or tenure-track if finances allow) so as to meet the needs of the French section.**

*Approval required by:* Provost  
*Resources provided by:* Provost  
*Executor:* Dean  
*Timeline for acting on:* for July 2014  
*Timeline for monitoring:* January 2014

**Recommendation #5 (French)**

**We recommend that students should be encouraged to participate in the exchange program in their third year.**

*Approval required by:* Dean  
*Resources provided by:* Dean  
*Executor:* Department  
*Timeline for acting on:* planning in 2013/14 for 2014/15 Academic year  
*Timeline for monitoring:* January 2014

**Recommendation #6 (French)**

**We would recommend that the French section broaden their relationships with graduate programs in the province or outside the province so as to build a stronger network of alliances to support their French majors by inviting guest speakers, writers and scholars in different fields.**

*Approval required by:* Graduate Dean  
*Resources provided by:* Graduate Dean  
*Executor:* Department  
*Timeline for acting on:* Fall 2013  
*Timeline for monitoring:* January 2014

**Recommendation #7 (German)**

We recommend that this program be phased out and that the German language offerings move to the Oshawa campus or be offered in the Spring/Summer session for students who need to satisfy a language requirement.

*Approval required by:* Senate  
*Timeline for acting on:* Completed

**Recommendation #21 (Hispanic)**

PQAC recommends that the university invest in two additional tenure track appointments in order to offer a 'good quality' program and to preserve the integrity of the Hispanic Studies major. If this is not possible the Committee recommends that the university continue to offer language courses in Spanish.

*Approval required by:* Provost  
*Resources provided by:* Provost  
*Executor:* Dean  
*Timeline for acting on:* April 2013  
*Timeline for monitoring:* January 2014