



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

March 6, 2019

Professor Susan McCahan
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
University of Toronto

Dear Susan,

I am writing in response to the request by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) in regards to the October 12, 2017 external review of Celtic Studies and its undergraduate programs. At its meeting of April 3, 2018, AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report addressing *“the progress towards the articulation of a clear vision for the program that could lead to strategic and operational sustainability, including the status of any new hires or involvement of cognate faculty.”* The Faculty has worked with the Principal of the University of St. Michael’s College and Director of Celtic Studies, Professor Randy Boyagoda, to address the concerns of the AP&P committee, as follows:

1) Articulating a clear vision for the program that could lead to strategic and operational sustainability

The University of St. Michael’s College, which sponsors the Celtic Studies program for the Faculty of Arts and Science in its capacity as a federated institution of the University of Toronto, is invested in the long-term sustainability of this program. The College directs a combination of endowed and operating funds to support the Celtic Studies program and will continue to do so. To ensure strong student experience and sustained enrolments, over the past year, the College has continued its practice of supporting students with their research-related travel, with specific scholarships for program students, and with funding and staffing support from the Principal’s Office for student-led events and conferences. A strong and recent indication of new undergraduate interest in Celtic Studies was the large number of applications to be part of the first-year SMC One Seminar, The Boyle Seminar in Scripts and Stories (pilot year). The Seminar focuses on the intersection of Celtic and mediaeval cultures, and allows students to choose Celtic language tutorials and have a co-curricular intensive international learning experience in Dublin, both of which in turn offer Seminar students a new gateway into the program. The larger collegiate and alumni communities’ interest in the Boyle Seminar has led to the donation of new funds to support offering the course.

2) Complement planning, including the status of any new or recent hires or involvement of cognate faculty

The top priority for the program is the creation of a continuing-status Teaching Stream appointment in Celtic Studies with a significant focus on Irish language instruction. The College will continue its partnership with the Ireland-Canada University Foundation, an external organization that provides annual funding for a dedicated Irish language instructor; a new instructor joined the program for the 2018-2019 academic year, with plans for her to renew her appointment for the 2019-2020 academic

year. The College will continue to support the hiring of sessional instructors as needed to ensure a robust set of course offerings for Celtic Studies students. Furthermore, as the program plans for the next academic year, it will build on newly-cultivated partnerships, as recommended in the AP&P Report. In response, over the past year the program's director (the College Principal) and faculty members have had discussions with the English and History departments, and the program is mounting a new course in Fall 2019 - on the Global Irish Diaspora - that has been intentionally developed to engage the interests of students in History, English, and Celtic Studies.

The Vice-Dean, Academic Planning and Strategic Initiatives, will continue to work with the College Principal to ensure that the program is of high quality. The Faculty is in the process of developing a model for unit-level planning. Following a UTQAP review, the academic lead for the program will oversee the development of a unit-level academic plan. This document will be submitted to the Dean by the end of the academic year following the review, and should articulate the unit's key academic plans over the next five-year period. The Faculty will work with the College Principals to develop a planning template that is tailored to College-sponsored programs.

I feel confident that the changes initiated by the College, the Program, and its faculty address the concerns of the AP&P follow-up request.

Sincerely,



David Cameron
Dean and Professor of Political Science

cc:

Randy Boyagoda, Principal of the University of St. Michael's College, Director of Celtic Studies
Penelope Lockwood, Vice Dean, Academic Planning & Strategic Initiatives, Faculty of Arts & Science

Daniella Mallinick, Director, Academic Programs, Planning & Quality Assurance, Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

Andrea Benoit, Academic Review Officer, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science