



October 4, 2017

Professor Sioban Nelson
Vice-Provost Academic Programs
University of Toronto

Dear Sioban,

I am writing in response to the request by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) in regards to the January 25-26, 2016 external review of the Department of East Asian Studies Undergraduate and Graduate Programs. At its meeting of November 1, 2016, AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report addressing the progress on: the financial health of the Department; and alternative approaches to pedagogy. The Faculty has worked with the Chair of East Asian Studies (EAS), Professor André Schmid, to address the concerns of the AP&P committee.

Issue 1: Financial Health of the Department

The 2016-17 academic year involved extensive discussion, primarily between the Chair of EAS and the Vice-Dean, Faculty and Academic Life, of the finances of the Department. Indeed, Prof. Schmid expressed a desire to review the departmental finances during his first days as Chair, and the discussion has now extended through two budget cycles, resulting in the following outcomes:

Teaching Resources:

One of EAS's primary long-term goals is better to meet student demand for language instruction in Japanese and Korean in particular. At the same time, EAS aims to diversify its undergraduate course offerings in an effort to attract a broader range of student interest, and to do so by means of "in-translation" lecture courses that do not entail the intensive language instruction required for full courses of study in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. An extensive review of the Department's teaching capacity and resources, including faculty and CLTA appointments, and TA and Sessional funding, has resulted in funding allocations allowing for an increase in capacity at the rate of 11 half-course equivalents (HCEs) over the next two years, 4 of which were approved this year for immediate action. Funding was allocated for 2016-17 to ensure that EAS's 2016-17 teaching needs were addressed. For 2017-18, additional funding has been provisionally allocated.

Non-Teaching (Discretionary) Resources:

The Dean has allocated additional discretionary funding to the Department. This allocation is earmarked for a variety of activities, including conferences, casual support (e.g. work-study students), invited speakers, graduate travel, workshops, pedagogical innovation, advertising, UG program and research support, TA training, etc.

Renovation Resources:

The Faculty has in addition committed funds toward a renovation of EAS's space.

Issue 2: Alternative Approaches to Pedagogy

Language teaching:

A new policy ensuring a maximum of 25 students in language tutorials has been implemented. Previously some courses had as many as 35 students.

With the support of the Department, Prof. Kyoungrok Ko applied successfully to the START program to begin researching and experimenting with a web-based flipped classroom approach for first year Korean language. Prof. Ko has received teaching release time this year (2017-18) to develop a curriculum, which will be implemented in 2018-19. At that point, the Department will determine whether this will be integrated more fully beyond first year Korean to upper year courses and, possibly, other languages.

The external review recommended that the Department hire a linguistics professor to oversee our language program. The Department decided nearly 20 years ago to shift away from this approach to teaching language. The decision not to hire a linguist to oversee the EAS language program was made for two reasons: First, as the study of Asia became more diversified around the Faculty, the department fine-tuned their research fields, including a shift away from linguistics. This was approved by Faculty governance, and the Department of Linguistics has now hired in the East Asian research field. Second, as Teaching Foreign Language became a post-secondary specialty, we hired scholars from this field in Teaching Stream positions. The results have been excellent and we have no plans to go back to the old linguistic model.

Undergraduate Curriculum Review:

EAS has undertaken a review of its undergraduate curriculum with the goal of streamlining its student flows and enrolment pressures. This involves an assessment of pre-requisites, enrolment controls as well as shifts in the distribution and size in second and third year courses. This process will be completed in September in preparation for submitting changes according to the normal academic review processes in October

I feel confident that the changes initiated by 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: André Schmid, Chair, Department of East Asian Studies
Penelope Lockwood, Vice Dean, Academic Planning & Strategic Initiatives