



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

September 26, 2019

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

Dear Professor McCahan,

I am writing in response to the request by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) in regards to the February 2, 2018 external review of the Latin American Studies undergraduate program and the March 7-8, 2018 external review of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and its undergraduate and graduate programs. At its meeting of November 1, 2018, AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report addressing the progress on the integration of the Latin American Studies program within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The Faculty has worked with Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese to address the concerns of the AP&P committee.

The reviews of Latin American Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese generated a series of consultations and discussions among the Vice-Dean, Academic Planning and Strategic Initiatives; the Vice-Dean, Undergraduate and International; the Director of LAS; and the Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. These consultations resulted in a proposal to move the LAS program into the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Academically, there was a strong rationale for this move, given that many of the elective courses in LAS are offered through Spanish and Portuguese, and the leadership of LAS was most recently held by a faculty member in Spanish and Portuguese. The Department has significant experience in operating undergraduate programs, and can now provide the LAS programs with administrative support and teaching by faculty with continuing appointments.

The Chair engaged in significant consultation with members of the Department, and discerned broad Departmental support for the proposal to become the administrative home for LAS. Accordingly, as of July 1, 2019, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese became the administrative home for the Latin American Studies major and minor programs. The Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese is now responsible for the LAS budget. LAS staff will report to the Chair. An additional .5 FTE staff position has been allocated to the Department to support both the LAS and the Spanish and Portuguese undergraduate programs. A new faculty line was allocated to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese through the 2019 Faculty Appointments Committee, conditional upon the administrative transfer of LAS to Spanish and Portuguese. This faculty position will support teaching in both LAS and Spanish and Portuguese.

The administrative transfer of the LAS program is expected to have very little impact on students in the LAS programs, beyond an assurance that they will now receive some instruction from continuing faculty members, as there is no change in the admission to the program or program requirements.

We have consulted with the A&S Registrar's Office and they are aware of this transfer; their office has made the necessary changes to Degree Explorer and on ROSI.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese has now assumed responsibility for all aspects of the LAS program administration, including governance. The LAS programs will be reviewed with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese in the next UTQAP cyclical review, in accordance with the schedule of reviews as determined by the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Woodin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melanie Woodin
Dean and Professor of Cell and Systems Biology

cc:

Ana Perez-Leroux, Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Poppy Lockwood, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning and Strategic Initiatives, Faculty
of Arts & Science

Asher Cutter, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Issues and Academic Planning

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

Andrea Benoit, Academic Review Officer, Faculty of Arts & Science