



March 1, 2017

Professor Sioban Nelson
Vice-Provost Academic Programs
University of Toronto

Dear Sioban,

I am writing to provide our follow-up report to the AP & P requested from the March 9, 2016 meeting, regarding the International Relations Program. We have now taken steps to address the concerns raised around A) curriculum design and delivery, and B) resourcing arrangements:

A. Curriculum Design and Delivery.

The program director has developed, in discussion with the FAS Dean's office, a series of curriculum changes to address the concerns raised in the external review. These changes address concerns raised around the need for greater flexibility, a review of course offerings, and the inclusion of courses from cognate departments. These concerns are being addressed primarily through a) the creation of core focus areas designed to provide students with clear pathways through the program while ensuring flexibility within those pathways, along with b) more flexible course offerings, and c) greater access to research opportunities.

Focuses: The new IRP curriculum will include a concentrated set of three core focuses. Each specialist and major student can add a focus of their choice. The establishment of such focuses balances the acknowledged need for greater flexibility within the IR program with the need to ensure that students are provided with the appropriate guidance to target this enhanced flexibility to specific outcomes. The Program Director is working with the Chairs of the core areas contributing to the program (History, Political Science, and Economics), to create focus areas that capitalize on the strengths of the core areas, and that meet the following criteria: They are those in which: a) IRP students have great interest; b) the University has existing strong, internationally renowned teaching capacity; c) there are many eligible courses from many departments and programs (to reinforce flexibility, diversification and burden-sharing); and d) there is the greatest support for IRP students in their transition after graduation to their desired graduate or professional schools or careers. Current focuses under consideration include *Canadian Foreign & Security Policy*, *International Economic Policy and Governance* and *International Law & Human Rights*.

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Students will normally choose a focus at the start of their third year and no later than the start of their fourth year. The three courses for each focus will be chosen from a designated list of 12 – 15 choices at the 300/400 level, updated each year. Focus courses can also be counted for meeting the core IRP specialist and major requirements. Each focus will normally include one 400-level seminar or an independent studies/reading/practicum course.

In designing the new focuses, the Program Director is following several key design principles:

- Focuses avoid replication of or undue overlap with others' minor programs
- Each focus will include relevant courses at the 300 and 400 level, with substantial opportunities for courses beyond those mandatory for the IR Specialist/Major programs
- Focuses build on the balanced tri-disciplinary skills acquired in the core IRP Specialist/Major programs
- Each focus will be associated with mentors, drawn from Trinity Fellows and Research Associates and those who are regular Trinity/U of T faculty, instructors and researchers. They will provide guidance to students on topics such as research opportunities (described below), international experience opportunities, internships and career plans.

The IR Program Director is working with the core units involved in the program, and with the FAS Vice-Dean, Undergraduate and International, to finalize the structure of these new focuses.

Course Offerings: Greater flexibility and student choice in a broader array of departmental offerings in all years is being addressed through changes in course options. These include: a) adding new course options from cognate disciplines (e.g., geography, sociology), following consultation with these units; and b) Making the expanded array of ad hoc course substitutions, allowed by the Director in 2016-17, a permanent feature of eligible IRP courses, identified in advance for all through their listing in the calendar each year

The proposed additional course options will offer students a broader set of cognate social science disciplines addressing international relations in a globalizing world, while maintaining the central political science, economics, history tri-disciplinary core. They will provide students greater choices more appropriate to their individual interests. Finally, by sharing the responsibility for teaching IR students across disciplines, they make new course offering available while helping to avoid over-enrolment problems in courses with capacity constraints.

Research Opportunities: The new IRP curriculum will provide enhanced opportunities to include independent studies/research projects within their program. The Program Director will encourage students to take advantage of the range of research opportunities available to them through the expanded array of departments, units, Colleges and Faculties such as Law and Management. The co-curricular research groups fostered by the IRP, and the IRP's global alumni network will be newly mobilized to expand such opportunities for IRP students from all Colleges. In addition, the Trinity College based Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship in Establishing Right Relations will provide IRP students from any College who meet its standards with the opportunity to spend three months abroad engaged in research on settler/indigenous relations; this opportunity would be likely to be especially popular among students pursuing studies in areas such as International Economic Policy and Governance and International Law & Human Rights.

B. Resourcing Arrangements:

Tenure-Stream Faculty: In the short term, the Program Director is working to ensure that, whenever possible, core IR courses are taught by tenure-stream faculty members from the core departments. For example, POL208 will be led by a tenure-stream faculty member in Political Science in 2017-2018.. In addition, the expanded range of courses available within the focuses will be selected to enhance the proportion of course offerings taught by tenured/tenure stream faculty, again reducing the reliance on sessional instructors.

In the intermediate term, the development of joint appointments between Trinity College and the core departments is a key strategic priority for the College. The History Department is seeking a new appointment in international history in the current round of FAS faculty appointments, determined by the FAS Faculty Appointments Committee in April 2017; this appointment will be co-financed by Trinity College. Trinity College is also committed to continuing an intensive fundraising effort to provide the funds needed to co-support a future appointment request from Political Science in the area of international politics.

Program Leadership: Stronger leadership and a stronger directorship will be provided by a greater reliance for the Director on tenured faculty based in the core departments (as was done in 2016-17). A Deputy Director from a different discipline/field will provide additional program support and leadership; in particular, the Deputy Director will be able to provide leadership when the Director is away. Finally, the Director is in the process of setting up an informal Advisory Committee made up of colleagues from core IR disciplines who are already resident in the IRP offices at Trinity College. Because these colleagues are available on-site, and have the expertise from their core disciplinary homes, they will be able to provide day-to-day advice to the Program Director on ongoing operational issues, as well as providing mentorship to students in the three focus groups. This informal committee will operate in addition to the formal IR Council, which is made up of Chairs of the three core departments (History, Political Science, and Economics), along with the Program Director and a FAS Vice-Dean.

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

Sincerely,



David Cameron
Dean and Professor of Political Science

Cc: Michael Ratcliffe, Dean of Arts, Trinity College
John Kirton, Interim Program Director, International Relations Program