### University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP)

#### Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

| Program(s):                                      | Italian, B.A., Hons: Specialist, Major; Minor  |
|                                                 | Italian Culture and Communication Studies, Minor  |
|                                                 | Second Language Learning (Italian), B.A., Hons: Major  |
|                                                 | Italian Studies, M.A., Ph.D.  |
| Division/Unit:                                  | Department of Italian Studies (Undergraduate and Tri-Campus Graduate Programs)  |
| Commissioning Officer:                          | Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science  |
| Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):                  | Dr. Christopher Kleinhenz, Professor Emeritus, Department of French and Italian, University of Wisconsin-Madison  |
|                                                 | Dr. Mark Pietralunga, Victor B. Oelschlager Professor and former Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University  |
|                                                 | Dr. Deanna Shemek, Professor of Italian Studies, Department of Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz  |
| Date of review visit:                           | November 19-20, 2012  |
| Date reported to AP&P:                          | April 16, 2013  |

### 1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that there were no issues to be drawn to the attention of the Agenda Committee but requested a follow up report in one year concerning faculty renewal.
2 Significant Program Strengths

• Innovative teaching
• International reputation of graduate academic staff
• The spirit of collegiality and cooperation within the Department and across campuses
• Undergraduate students’ satisfaction with courses
• Well-conceived renewal of the Department’s language curriculum
• Unusual strength and engagement of both undergraduate and graduate student associations
• Exceptional research resources

3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

• Going beyond traditional categories and period boundaries in designing undergraduate courses to mobilize critical thinking and trans-historical inquiry
• Systematically identifying learning outcomes in course syllabi and program objectives to strengthen already fine course offerings
• Revising the graduate program curriculum to make it consistent with the interdisciplinary and comparative direction of the profession
• Addressing the ongoing challenge of securing consistently high quality graduate applicants in a competitive funding environment
• Engaging in strategic growth through new faculty hires and building linkages with other programs
• Establishing a strategic plan for the next five to ten years
• Finding ways to facilitate increased dialogue across disciplines and fields, working collaboratively with other units, centres and institutes to mutual benefit

4 Implementation Plan

The Dean undertook in consultation with the Department to support the following changes:

• Immediate Term (6 months)
  o Extending the curriculum beyond traditional boundaries
    ▪ The Department Chair and faculty members are eager to recommend additional new thematic courses for development, especially at the undergraduate level, and they will engage in a reassessment of course offerings
  o Identifying learning outcomes
    ▪ The Department has begun to review course syllabi to ensure that they clearly identify learning outcomes and program objectives
  o Revising graduate program curricula
    ▪ The Department has begun to revise the graduate program
    ▪ The Department is in the process of further strengthening partnerships across the University to promote more interdisciplinary opportunities for its graduate students
  o Engaging in strategic growth of the complement
- The Department has recently concluded a search for contractually-limited term-appointment and a specialist in three areas
- The Chair is in discussion with cognate units to explore cross-appointment possibilities
  - Strategic planning
    - The Chair will schedule a faculty retreat in 2013 on the strategic direction for the Department
  - Collaborating with other units
    - The Department has already engaged in discussion with cognate units such as Cinema Studies and will continue to assess their curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels
    - Cross-disciplinary topics and methods will be encouraged at all levels, and they would generate easy alliances with faculty of cognate departments for research collaboration, co-supervision of dissertations, and joint conferences
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Attracting high quality graduate applicants
    - The Faculty has earmarked additional funds for the 2013-2014 recruitment cycle to enhance the Department’s ability to attract top-tier domestic students

The Dean’s Office will follow up annually with the unit to assess progress.

5 Executive Summary
The reviewers identified the programs’ strengths as the engagement of the student associations; innovative teaching; high satisfaction of undergraduate students; well-conceived renewal of the language curriculum; and the spirit of collegiality and cooperation within the Department and across campuses. The reviewers recommended that the followings issues be addressed: extending undergraduate courses beyond traditional categories; systematically identifying learning outcomes; revising the graduate program curriculum; increasing the proportion of high quality graduate applicants; engaging in strategic growth of the complement; establishing a strategic plan; and facilitating increased dialogue with other units. The Department will engage in a review of its course offerings at the graduate and undergraduate level and has begun to identify course learning outcomes. The Department plans to continue to strengthen ties and explore cross-appointments with cognate units. A strategic planning retreat is planned for 2013. The Faculty of Arts & Science has earmarked additional funds for the 2013-2014 recruitment cycle to enhance the Department’s ability to attract top-tier domestic students. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that there were no issues to be drawn to the attention of the Agenda Committee but requested a follow up report in one year concerning faculty renewal.