



University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

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| Program Reviewed: | Ethics, Society, and Law, B.A. (Hons.): Major |
| Division/unit offering program: | Faculty of Arts & Science, offered in association with Trinity College |
| Commissioning Officer: | Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science |
| Reviewers (Name, Affiliation): | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Professor Michael Milde, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Western Ontario2. Professor Daniel Weinstock, Director, McGill Institute for Health & Social Policy, McGill University |
| Date of Review Visit: | January 14 – 15, 2016 |
| Date Reported to AP&P: | November 1, 2016 |

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report to address the broad issue of long-term sustainability of the program given its interdisciplinary nature and staffing mix, and on support for sessional instructors. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 2 meeting in 2017-18.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- Rich undergraduate academic experience that combines the impressive, internationally recognized research accomplishments of FAS with the interdisciplinary, community oriented, small class focus of Trinity College
- Undergraduates address complex social issues from a variety of disciplinary points of view within small-group courses
- Numerous opportunities for students to conduct research and prepare for publication, including through the Law Workshops and the student journal, *Mindful*

- Graduates are highly qualified and well suited to a variety of outcomes, including graduate school and law school
- FAS faculty who teach in the program are world-class researchers publishing highly relevant research

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

- Balancing the benefits and costs of curricular freedom, including a lack of cohort cohesion, inattention to the course listed as fulfilling program requirements, and the potential for students' educational experiences to be unstructured
- Providing greater stability in the faculty involved in delivering the program to ensure both program quality and to improve morale among the teaching staff
- Addressing structural challenges in the academic program and complexities in academic governance, including the complex relationship between the Faculty of Arts & Science, Trinity College, and the University, noting that the majority of students in the program are not members of Trinity College; and developing greater ties with other units, especially with the Chairs of those departments involved in delivering key courses in the program.

4 Implementation Plan

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

Immediate Term (6 months)

- Balancing the benefits and costs of curricular freedom
 - The program has introduced two new courses—TRN203H1 Society, its Limits and Possibilities, and TRN204H1 Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning. These are both required by, and also restricted to students in the program, providing incoming students with a shared foundation and opportunities to connect.
 - The program director will monitor the cohort-building impact of TRN203H1 and TRN204H1 of these two new courses.
- Addressing structural challenges and developing greater ties with other units
 - The program has strengthened ties with the Faculty of Law and the Centre for Ethics.
 - The recruitment of a new Administrative Assistant in the Faculty of Arts at Trinity College in February 2016 has provided the Program Director with increased administrative support.

Medium Term (1-2 years)

- Balancing the benefits and costs of curricular freedom; addressing structural challenges; and developing greater ties with other units

- The program will establish an Advisory Committee with a mandate to advise on curriculum changes, program planning, and resources. The committee will be responsible for reviewing the balance between required and optional courses within the program and ensuring that the optional courses in the program are relevant and available. The Advisory Committee will review ES&L's current status as a Type II program (in which admission is determined by grades).
- The committee will include chairs of the key cognate Departments—Philosophy, Sociology, and Political Science—the Director of the Centre for Ethics, the Director of the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, and representation from the Faculty of Arts and Science Dean's Office in addition to the Director of the ES&L program.
- The mandate of the committee will be to ensure smooth lines of communication between the program and its partners, including at the Departmental and unit level within the Faculty of Arts and Science and between Trinity College and the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Longer Term (3-5 years)

- Providing greater stability in the faculty involved in delivering the program
 - The program will continue to explore, together with the Faculty of Arts and Science and cognate Departments and Centres, the means to stabilize the positions of faculty engaged in delivery of the ES&L program. This will be facilitated in the medium to longer terms by the Ethics, Society, and Law Advisory Committee, bringing together as it will the leadership of stakeholder Departments and Centres.

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 rich undergraduate academic experience that combines the impressive, internationally recognized research accomplishments of FAS with the interdisciplinary, community oriented, small class focus of Trinity College; addressing complex social issues from a variety of disciplinary points of view within small-group courses; numerous opportunities for students to conduct research and prepare for publication, including through the Law Workshops and the student journal, *Mindful*; program graduates are highly qualified and well suited to a variety of outcomes, including graduate school and law school; and the FAS faculty who teach in the program are world-class researchers publishing highly relevant research. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: balancing the benefits and costs of curricular freedom; providing greater stability in the faculty involved in delivering the program; addressing structural challenges; and developing greater ties with other units. The program has introduced two new mandatory courses that are restricted to students in the program, providing incoming students with a shared foundation and opportunities to connect. The program has strengthened ties with the Faculty of Law and the Centre for Ethics, and will start an Advisory Committee which will include chairs of the key cognate Departments. The Advisory Committee will advise on curriculum changes, program

planning, and resources, and will ensure smooth lines of communication between the program and its partners. The program will continue to explore, together with the Faculty of Arts and Science and cognate Departments and Centres, the means to stabilize the positions of faculty engaged in delivery of the ES&L program. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report to address the broad issue of long-term sustainability of the program given its interdisciplinary nature and staffing mix, and on support for sessional instructors. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 2 meeting in 2017-18.