



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

<b>Programs Reviewed:</b>	Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, BA (Hons.): Specialist, Major Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, MA Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, PhD
<b>Unit Reviewed:</b>	Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prof George Pavlich, PhD, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta</li> <li>2. Prof Sally E. Merry, PhD, Department of Anthropology, New York University</li> <li>3. Prof Delores Jones-Brown, PhD, Department of Law, Police Science and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York</li> </ol>
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	February 26 – 27, 2018
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	November 1, 2018

Unless otherwise noted, all bulleted comments apply to all programs reviewed.

## 1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.

## 2 Significant Program Strengths

- Rigorous graduate programs and interdisciplinary undergraduate programs
- Impressive, diverse student population and evident collegiality among all members of the Centre
- High impact faculty scholarship
- One of the world's foremost research centres in criminology and sociolegal studies

Developed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

### **3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement**

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Increasing the faculty complement with consideration to striking a balance of appointment types
- Housing the Centre in one space to enhance undergraduate student involvement, while ensuring the new location maintains collegiality and provides space for graduate student offices and visiting scholars
- Appointing a dedicated communications administrator responsible for promoting the Centre on wide-scale
- Addressing graduate curricular issues, including providing graduate students with more exposure to a broader set of topics and perspectives in their core courses, and providing MA students with more seminar-style courses and increased exposure to tenure-stream faculty
- Addressing constraints on teaching capacity, especially regarding the demand for undergraduate programs and in experiential learning opportunities
- Addressing undergraduate curriculum, including: increasing curricular focus on indigeneity and the law; adding an environmental justice course; ensuring availability of methods/statistics requirement; reconsidering the timing of final exams; and clarifying teaching assistant roles



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

October 2, 2018

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

## **Re: UTQAP cyclical review of the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies**

Dear Professor McCahan,

Along with the faculty, staff, and students of the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, I am pleased with the external reviewers' assessment of the Centre and its programs: Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, B.A., Hons., (Specialist, Major); and Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, M.A., and Ph.D. The reviewers complimented the Centre in stating that: *"The Centre has over the decades of its existence deservedly enjoyed a reputation as one of the world's foremost research centres in criminology and sociolegal studies. The significance of that strength should not be overlooked, since there are no similar research centres that have over such a protracted period been globally renowned for extending frontiers of both focus areas."* With specific respect to the Centre's programs, the reviewers state that the Centre has succeeded in providing *"exceptional, interdisciplinary, undergraduate programing that engages students in the critical and creative analysis of both fields, for which students expressed approval. At the same time, graduate programs offer rigorous courses and a culture of broad supervision as well as mentorship for graduate students."*

The quality of this program notwithstanding, as per your letter dated May 31, 2018, the review report raises a number of issues and challenges. I am writing to address the areas of the review report that you identify as key. The response to these items and implementation plan are separated into immediate (6 months), medium (one to two years), and longer (three to five years) terms, where appropriate, along with who (Director, Dean) will take the lead in each area. The Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies has discussed the reviewers' comments through consultation with various groups and has begun to implement changes where appropriate and that are consistent with the Centre's mission.

### **Faculty Resources**

**The reviewers noted the small number of core faculty and recommended increasing the faculty complement, with consideration to striking a balance of teaching-stream appointments, tenure-stream, junior and senior faculty, and sessional and cross-appointments.**

Immediate-to-medium-term response: The Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies (CrimSL) will assess their faculty complement and prioritize their requests for new appointments

to strike an optimal balance between teaching-stream and tenure-stream appointments, junior and senior faculty, and sessional and cross-appointments. The Centre has already expressed its interest in creating at least two positions, one to replace a faculty member on phased retirement, and another for a full or joint appointment of a faculty member with expertise in Indigenous peoples and law.

Based on the above prioritization of faculty appointments, the Centre will submit a request through a formal process to the Faculty Appointments Committee. Units submit requests in March of each year for consideration by the Faculty Appointments Committee, which includes faculty representatives from across the three FAS sectors (the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences) as well as the Colleges. After considering the full range of requests, the FAC makes recommendations to the Dean. Any request for additional faculty has an impact across the division, and as such, faculty appointments are considered not in isolation, but with respect to needs that exist across the Faculty.

### **Administration**

**The reviewers supported the plan to house the Centre in one space indicating this could enhance undergraduate student involvement. They added that the Centre should ensure the new location maintains the current level of collegiality, and has space for graduate student offices and for visiting scholars.**

Arts & Science recognizes the need for increased space for the Centre, while at the same time ensuring the maintenance of the current level of collegiality.

Immediate-term response: Arts & Science is in the process of hiring an architect (to be selected Fall 2018). Arts & Science and the Centre will work with the architect to configure appropriate and sufficient space for the teaching and research activities of the Centre. A priority in this process is to design an environment that preserves the co-location of members of the Centre's community.

Medium-to-longer-term response: Construction of the new space is projected to commence September 2020, with occupancy projected for August 2022.

**The reviewers recommended the appointment of a dedicated communications administrator responsible for promoting the Centre on wide-scale.**

Immediate-to-medium-term response: In February 2018, the Centre hired a communications officer on a casual, half-time basis for six months. In May 2018, the Faculty of Arts and Science approved funding of a two-year, half-time position for this communications officer.

### **Graduate Programs**

**The reviewers noted that some graduate students would like more exposure to a broader set of topics and perspectives in their core courses.**

Immediate-term response: CrimSL held a retreat in September 2018 with permanent faculty, contract instructors, sessional instructors, cross-appointed faculty, and staff. A number of issues relating to graduate students arose. CrimSL only has one required course, which is research methods. The Graduate Co-Ordinator and the Director intend to convene a meeting with graduate students later in the fall to seek a better understanding of their concerns about the content of existing graduate courses.

Immediate-to-medium-term response: The Director and Graduate Curriculum Committee are reviewing the suggestions raised at the planning retreat, and where appropriate and feasible are working to provide additional course options. However, it is important to recognize that CrimSL is a relatively small unit with 4.5 tenure-track research faculty on site (one colleague is an administrator at Simcoe Hall) and one continuing teaching stream appointment who does not presently teach in the graduate program. Despite this relatively small number of core faculty, the unit offered 14 courses during the 2017-18 academic year, including two offered by our emeritus faculty. Thus, it is not feasible, given the current faculty complement and workload policy, for the unit to increase its core-taught courses at this time. However, the Director is in discussions with cognate units to have some of their courses cross-listed to CrimSL, to provide the broader set of topics and perspectives provided to students through their course options.

**The reviewers commented that MA students would benefit from more seminar-style courses and increased exposure to tenure-stream faculty.**

Immediate-term response: The Centre is seeking to create opportunities to expand its offerings to graduate students by encouraging cross-appointed faculty to offer courses in the Centre, and by expanding the availability of cross-listed courses in other units.

Medium-term response: As explained above, CrimSL will be requesting faculty positions through the Faculty Appointments Committee process, and if successful will result in the hiring of additional tenure-stream faculty. These tenure-stream faculty will interact directly with the MA students in seminar style courses.

**The reviewers commented on graduate student funding.**

The Reviewers noted that the funding structure favours Canadian students and were concerned that international students might be deterred from applying. The Centre will take advantage of the recent decrease in international PhD tuition to attract top-level graduate students.

Immediate and medium-term response: With respect to the Reviewers' concerns regarding funding payments, the Centre will be able to adjust the number and timing of instalments paid to doctoral students. In addition, the University of Toronto has reduced tuition fees for international PhD students to the same level as those paid by domestic PhD students, which will have a positive impact on the Centre's efforts to recruit and retain top international students. However, Arts and Science will ensure a balance between domestic and international graduate students is maintained, and thus there will still be controls on international graduate student admission. Arts and Science has continued to enhance its base funding package, which should also help with recruitment.

## **Undergraduate Programs**

**The reviewers observed constraints on teaching capacity, which were limiting the ability to address increased demand for the undergraduate programs and expand service/experiential learning opportunities.**

Immediate-to-medium-term response: Arts and Science recognizes the need for expanded experiential learning opportunities and is working on centralized supports that will be available to all undergraduate students and units. The Centre currently offers experimental learning opportunities, and it plans to expand those offerings through a new course in the Walls to Bridges (W2B) program, whereby university students study alongside persons incarcerated in provincial jails. A teaching-stream faculty member in the Centre has been trained to deliver courses in this program. The Centre is actively working with the Faculty to explore options to offer this course in the near term.

Medium-term response: As explained above, CrimSL will submit a request through a formal process to the Faculty Appointments Committee to increase its faculty complement, which will relieve constraints on teaching capacity.

While we recognize that there is currently high demand for the undergraduate programs in CrimSL, there will be a modest decline in total undergraduate enrolment in Arts and Science in the medium to longer-term (under the revised SMA). However, it is not clear whether this decline in the total Arts and Science undergraduate population will impact CrimSL, as their programs are currently very popular with students.

**The reviewers recommended some minor changes to the undergraduate curriculum, including: increasing curricular focus on indigeneity and the law; adding an environmental justice course; ensuring availability of methods/statistics requirement; reconsidering the timing of final exams; and, clarifying teaching assistant roles.**

Immediate-term response: The Centre has been exploring means of communicating more effectively with students about accessing its methods/statistics course, or comparable courses offered in other units.

The Centre is aware of concerns that final exams have been administered during the teaching term (instead of the final exam period) and the Centre will continue to ensure that it abides by the Faculty's policies with respect to the timing of final exams.

The Centre has drafted a handbook primarily for sessional lecturers (though it will be distributed to all instructors). This handbook includes a section on the roles and duties of teaching assistants, as members of the teaching team.

Medium-term response: In the last three years, CrimSL developed two undergraduate courses and one graduate course on indigeneity and the law.

To conclude, we appreciate that the external reviewers identified the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies' strengths and noted a few areas for development. The Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies has already begun to move forward with plans to address the recommendations as presented by the reviewers.

Sincerely,



David Cameron, CM, FRSC  
Dean and Professor of Political Science

cc.

Audrey Macklin, Director, Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies

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

Daniella Mallinck, Director, Academic Programs, Planning and Quality Assurance, Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

Andrea Benoit, Academic Review Officer, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science

## 5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as the rigorous graduate programs; interdisciplinary undergraduate programs; impressive, diverse student population; evident collegiality among all members of the Centre; high impact faculty scholarship; and the position as one of the world's foremost research centres in criminology and sociolegal studies. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: increasing the faculty complement with a balance of appointment types; housing the Centre in one space to enhance undergraduate student involvement; appointing a dedicated communications administrator; and addressing graduate and undergraduate curricular issues. The Dean's Administrative Response describes the Faculty, unit and programs' responses to the reviewers' recommendations, including an implementation plan for any changes necessary as a result. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.