

## Academic Program Report: University of Victoria Faculty of Humanities, Gender Studies 2016

### Summary

The reviewers noted the high quality of the Gender Studies undergraduate program. The program has a number of strengths, including a core curriculum across the sections of the introductory course, a diverse range of 300 level courses linked to faculty research interests, a required 3<sup>rd</sup> year seminar that helps build a cohort of learners, and a 4<sup>th</sup> year capstone course that ensures every Major completes an independent research project. Despite significant growth in Majors and Minors, the faculty is congratulated on creating opportunities for mentoring, student leadership and a community of learners, resulting in students who are enthusiastic about their learning experience, which is described as both challenging and rewarding. The Department is highly efficient, with a DTC of 0, and an EET that compares favourably with departments with a much larger teaching capacity. The faculty all have active research programs and a strong record of research productivity for a small group of faculty. The current curriculum and future goals of Gender Studies are core to the University's Strategic Plan (with its focus on experiential learning, civic engagement, and commitment to diversity, equity and fairness), its International Plan (with many courses on international and intercultural themes), and the draft Indigenous Plan (with its recent hiring and suite of four courses on Indigenous issues). Thus the reviewers concluded that the Department is in step with, if not slightly ahead of, the University's goals and priorities.

### Recommendations

The APR recommendations centered on correcting the resource imbalance between the Department of Gender Studies and other Faculty Departments. The development of the responses will involve resource planning across the Faculty of Humanities.

**Recommendation:** The administration should provide TA support to the Department of Gender Studies to accommodate its current enrolments, allow for future growth, and address equity issues across the Faculty.

**Recommendation:** In the short term, until additional faculty resources are available, the Department should consider redistributing some of its resources from 3<sup>rd</sup> year course offerings to increase capacity in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

**Recommendation:** The Department and the Faculty should work together to consider ways to reinstitute the Gender Studies Practicum.

**Recommendation:** Until increased resources make it possible to develop a stand-alone graduate program in Gender Studies, we recommend the Department consider ways to collaborate with other programs to expand its graduate training capacity.