

Executive Summary

Panel: John Barker (external, UBC), Christine O’Bonsawin (internal, History and Indigenous Studies) and Lisa Rankin (external, Memorial University, Panel Chair)

1. Panel Visit Overview

The APR panel visit was scheduled for the 17th and 18th of October, 2019. The Panel began its work with a meeting at 9:30am with the Associate Vice-President of Academic planning, Dr. Susan Lewis, followed by a meeting with the Acting Dean of Social Sciences, Dr. Rosaline Canessa and Anthropology Department Chair, April Nowell to discuss the APR process, and the program of events for the two day visit.

Dr. April Nowell took us on a tour of the Department’s facilities. Over the two day site visit the panel had face-to-face meeting with the administrative staff, undergraduate students, graduate students, and all available faculty including the undergraduate and graduate committees. These meetings allowed us to talk to all of the various groups in the Anthropology Department, and alongside the departmental self-study, faculty space-plan, previous APR, P&T documents and current job ads provided us with a good overview of its achievements and challenges.

The panel visit ended with exit meetings with the Acting Dean of Social Sciences, AVP of Academic planning and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Finally, the panel met over dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday to discuss the site visit and to plan the writing of the report.

Overall we found that the department had made considerable strides since its last APR and have expanded their programs in new and bold directions. Faculty, students and staff are collegial and engaged; they are contributing in significant ways to university priorities with strong programs of in research, undergraduate and graduate teaching and experiential learning, and are working to address Indigenization. Nevertheless, all departments face challenges and the Department of Anthropology at UVIC is no exception – though many current issues stem from its successful rejuvenation. The following recommendations, both minor and significant, are made in effort to assist the department meet its own goals as they move forward.

2. Summary of Recommendations

Recommendations at the department level

1. The Department undertake a thorough review of undergraduate course offerings listed in the UVic Calendar.
2. The Department consider ways to foster a sense of collective spirit among the undergraduate students.
3. The Department consider ways to underscore the strengths of the co-op program to the undergraduate cohort, preferably in their first year of study.
4. The Department review and regularize its offerings of graduate methods courses.

5. The Department set a firm limit on the magnitude of the MA thesis.
6. The Department clarify the duties of teaching stream faculty with issues of equity and potential burn-out addressed.
7. The Department set clear standards for graduate student supervisions and faculty contributions towards funding.
8. The Department review faculty CVs for accuracy and consistency.
9. The Department commit itself to the hiring of multiple Indigenous scholars over a more extended planning period.
10. The Department engage in a process for reviewing an Indigenous-focused undergraduate curriculum.
11. The Department take proactive measures to support Indigenous students in Anthropology.
12. The Department plan for graduate work space before developing MSc program.
13. The Department work with office staff to prioritize and enact administrative duties.

Recommendations at other administrative levels

1. The University confirm access and properly secure the “Jam Factory” storage space.
2. The University locate new laboratory space.
3. The University supply a scientific sink with sediment trap in the Archaeology lab.
4. The University provide increased technical support.