*Linguistics Academic Program Review Panel Report, February 2020*

**Executive summary**

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Victoria “…is unique in bridging three interrelated areas of specialization: linguistic theory, applied linguistics (language teaching methodologies and second language acquisition), and Indigenous language revitalization” (Linguistics Department Self-Study, p. 6). The Department has a sterling and well-deserved reputation for research excellence in these three domains, and especially for research that incorporates elements from all three domains.

The Department is at a crucial juncture due to faculty attrition and dwindling resources. In part, this stems from problems with program design, reduced enrolments, and smaller class sizes. The Department has the opportunity to address these issues by revising the undergraduate and graduate curricula, and by increasing collaboration with other units.

The Panel acknowledges an issue that is not normally part of a program review, namely the level of perceived dysfunction and conflict within the Department. (The details and origins of the conflict are irrelevant, but it was clear that the divisions were not simply based on the ‘theoretical’ vs. ‘applied’ divide that can be found in a number of Linguistics departments in North America.) If the Department is to move forward, the conflict needs to be resolved. We hope that the Department can put its talents and energies into the curriculum revision that the review team sees as a necessary step in Departmental renewal.

1.1 Panel visit overview

The Panel met over two days, from Thursday, February 26th to Friday, February 27th, 2020. The

schedule is attached. The Panel members were the Chair, Dr. Carrie Dyck (Linguistics, Memorial

University of NL), Dr. Peter Avery (Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, York University), and Dr. Stephen Lindsay (Psychology, University of Victoria).

The Panel met with regular faculty members, continuing sessionals, and representatives from the University of Victoria’s administration. We also met separately with four undergraduate students (which, unfortunately, does not constitute a representative sample) and with ten graduate students (both MA and Ph.D. students from various programs).