

Queen's University  
Executive Summary of the Review of the Academic Programs in the Faculty of Law

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), the faculty of law submitted a self-study on October 7, 2015 to the school of graduate studies and the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic) to initiate the cyclical program review of its professional and graduate programs [JD, LLM, PhD and combined programs: MPA-JD, MIR-JD, MA(Econ)-JD and MBA-JD]. The approved self-study presented program descriptions, learning outcomes, library report and analyses of data provided by the office of institutional research and planning and the school of graduate studies. Appendices to the self-study

## Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan for the Cyclical Program Review of the Academic Programs in the Faculty of Law

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation and the internal response and assessments of the professional and graduate programs [JD, LL.M, PhD and combined programs: MPA-

faculty were impressive and perfectly appropriate to the delivery of a high-level JD and graduate programs. They also noted that the quality of the student learning experience is very high and that the curriculum does an excellent job of reflecting the current state of legal education.

The review team did note that in view of emerging trends in legal education, the JD program might consider bringing knowledge and skills together, particularly through more creative assessment of learning outcomes in lecture courses.

The dean of law, after consultation with faculty and staff in the faculty, submitted a response to the review team report (January 4, 2016). The dean of the school of graduate studies also submitted her response to the provost's office (January 6, 2016). Specific recommendations were discussed, and clarifications and corrections presented.

Subsequent to receipt of the review team report and the internal responses from the faculty and the dean of graduate studies, the senate cyclical program review committee (SCPRC) dedicated its meeting of February 2, 2016 to this particular discussion.

The SCPRC would like to recognize the following strengths of the faculty of law:

- Offers a high quality JD program that provides its students with an enriched learning experience;
- Accomplished faculty who continue to look for teaching/learning opportunities that diversify and constantly improve the JD learning experience;
- High quality staff who are engaged and invested in their students;
- Excellent physical space that provides an appropriate array of multi-purpose, active and traditional learning environments.

The SCPRC identified the following opportunities for enhancement. The faculty is encouraged to continue to explore:

- The appropriateness of the three-year PhD program and ways to introduce more structure into the program, including explicit expectations for progress and faculty-student interaction;
- Ways to strengthen communications with students regarding their role in and the importance of academic integrity;
- A review of the structure of the LLM program including exploring whether or not to replace it with and/or introduce a professional Master's program that is geared to the strength of the faculty members' expertise.

#### Summary of the Reviewer's Recommendations with the Deans' Responses

##### Length of PhD Program

The review team questioned the appropriateness of the three-year design of the PhD program.

*The Faculty of Law responded that it recognizes the challenges presented by the unusually short (three-year) duration of the PhD program in law and plans to review the budgetary and other implications of lengthening the program to four years. The response went on to say that the faculty expected the review should be completed during the 2016-2017 academic year.*

*The vice-provost and dean of the school of graduate studies noted that this issue has been discussed in the past. However, with more information available (including financial details and comparator data across programs and universities) a more thorough analysis is required to inform the discussion.*

#### Evaluation of the LLM Program

The review team recommended that the LLM program be evaluated and consideration be given to replacing the research Master's degree with a professional Master's targeted at areas of professional need, consistent with the faculty's areas of strength.

*The dean of the faculty of law noted that recruiting a viable cohort of high-quality research-Masters students has been a perennial challenge. It is expected that with the recent introduction of the new and distinctive collaborative LLM in Political and Legal Thought enrolments will increase in 2016-17. However, the faculty is actively considering various options for the future, including the possibility of focusing its graduate research program on the PhD and folding the Master's program into a professionally oriented LLM degree.*

*The vice-provost and dean of the school of graduate studies replied that there are many options*

Implementation Plan:

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
1. That the faculty of law explore alternate ways of assessing JD student success by moving away from 100% examination and introducing multiple modes of evaluation throughout the term. More innovative and formative assessment of learning outcomes, especially in lecture courses, will allow for the evaluation of a broader range of important skills and knowledge.	Initiate discussions with		

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