

Department of History Periodic Program Review

Recommendation and Implementation Plan – One-Year Follow-up Report

(submitted June 19, 2023)

Recommendation #: 1
Recommendation: That, in acting on the below recommendations, an equity review be undertaken by the chair and a departmental EDI subcommittee that includes student representation.
Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Strike a departmental EDI committee, which includes student representation to achieve the overall objectives of this program review.<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Secure specialized internal and/or external support, e.g., EDI consultant
Timeline: 2022-ongoing; recommendations/report by 2023-2024 academic year
Responsibility for Leading Initiative: Department Chair
EDI committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● EDI committee was struck in Fall 2022. Composition consists of three faculty members, representation from CUPE 1, one staff member and three students. The Interim Chair provided overall support.● Committee established priorities for the year, gathered relevant reports and developed two surveys, one for faculty, instructors and staff and one for students.● Committee consulted with Crystal Mark and Tamar Myers from the OVPECI office.● The committee hired an RA to help with distribution of the survey. The work is ongoing. Surveys should be complete by Fall 2023. Curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Addition of three new courses, HIS 560, HIS 350, HIS 392 to Core Electives Table II (see #2).● Inclusion of HST 375, HST 475, HST 627 and HST 658 in the LGBTQ2S+ minor● The adding of HIS 392 to the Black Studies minor● The adding of HIS 560 to MENA minor Department provided support for faculty initiatives related to EDI: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hired a Career Boost student to help with Middle Eastern and North African Studies Centre events● Provided financial support for Asian Heritage Month Celebration Lunch with Senator Dr. Flordeliz (Gigi), Mary Ito and the Asian Faculty and Staff Network at TMU.● Provided financial support for an event with two leading LGBTQ2S+ Studies scholars Dr. Lisa L. Moore and Dr. Bo Ruberg celebrating LGBTQ2S+ Studies at TMU, March 2023● Canada Research Chair application “The Working Lives of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in Canada” (was not funded) – written and submitted by Drs. Jenny Carson and Ian Mosby.

Recommendation #: 2

Recommendation: Have a robust, inclusive, department-wide discussion on curriculum renewal.

Actions:

- Conduct an audit and review of curriculum objectives, learning outcomes, descriptions and requirements/prerequisites
- Secure specialized internal and/or external consultant supports

Timeline: 2022-ongoing

Responsibility for Leading Initiative: it is suggested that a professional curriculum reviewer/consultant be hired. Depending on when the consultant is engaged, possible timeline: 2022-ongoing; recommendations/report by 2023-2024 academic year.

Responsibility for Approving Recommendation: Curriculum Review Committee/departmental membership; Faculty Dean

Revisions to course titles and descriptions:

- HIS 475 Human Rights in Global History (Jennifer Tunnicliffe)
- HST 526 Women and Gender in U.S. History (Jenny Carson)
- HST 580 Indigenous History: An Introduction (Ian Mosby)
- HST 680 Treaties, Land and Indigenous Governance (Ian Mosby)
- HIS 559 Ancient Egypt (Jean Li)

The addition of three new courses to Core Electives Table II.

- HIS 560 History of Ancient Egypt (Jean Li)
- HIS 350 The Fight for Rights in North America (Jennifer Tunnicliffe)
- HIS 392 African Canadian History (Patrice Allen)

Ongoing discussions:

- Curriculum 101 chart: created by Anne-Marie Dawes to help better understand new curriculum (Open Electives, etc.).
- History 101 course: required first year course focussed on skills and careers
- Clean up of courses that are no longer taught or duplications between HST/HIS, as well as ongoing discussion about alternating offerings to ensure that courses in the program catalogue are taught on a regular basis.
- The Interim Chair has made the department aware of Faculty of Arts teaching and guest speaker grants.

Recommendation #: 3

Recommendation: Continue to build on the program’s existing strength and expand innovative experiential learning opportunities.

Actions:

- Clearly communicate the benefits of existing experiential learning opportunities to students.
- Expand the number and variety of experiential learning opportunities through both internships and our new co-op program.

Timeline: Fall 2021 to 2024-25

Responsibility for Leading Initiative: Undergraduate Program Director and Faculty Co-op Advisor, supported by Undergraduate Program Administrator, Program Advisory Council (when established) and department membership.

Responsibility for Approving Recommendation: Department

Co-Op/Careers and CELT

- First year of co-op: two students with employment at Flipp and Innunco Academy.
- Second year of co-op: seven students, two of whom were employed at Toronto Metropolitan University as Project Assistant in the Experiential Learning Office, and as Associate Academic Coordinator at the Head Office of Kids Coding School.
- Internships: The Toronto Railway Museum, The Hockey Hall of Fame Resource Centre (Archives), and The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA)
- Community-engaged learning and teaching in a number of classes. The University EL tagging document ([link here](#)) defines Community-Based Learning as allowing “students to link theory and practice as they participate in community-engaged activities and projects to address community needs”.

Department provided support for a number of CELT/student initiatives:

- Provided funds for the first Undergraduate History Symposium April 2023 and creation of undergraduate journal [Endnote](#).
- Provided funds for guest speakers in a number of classes.
 - HIS 976, Cold War Germany, hosted Robert G. Waite, research historian at the German Resistance Memorial Center in Berlin and former senior historian at the Office of Special Investigations, US Department of Justice, where he investigated alleged Nazi offenders.
 - In HIS 610 invited a former TMU heritage management student (who then went to the Master of Museum Studies programme at U of T) to be available for one-on-one conversations with interested existing students to get her views on the programme.
 - In a Senior Seminar on US foreign policy and Indochinese conflicts, 1945-present, invited a Vietnam War Veteran.
 - In HST 802 invited Holocaust survivor Elly Gotz, a survivor of Dachau.
 - In HIS 916 invited Dr. Martin Hilbert to speak on the history of science and technology.

- In HIS 610 reinstated Curatorial trips. Met the paper conservator at the Toronto Public Library's Osborne Collection in addition to the specialist librarians, and at the Gardiner Museum had the tour conducted by the collections manager and by the senior curator.
- In HIS 755 Material Culture trips were conducted through Queen's Park for the 'material culture of the state' by a senior official and met the MPP for the TMU. Also for the 'material culture of the immaterial' trip heard a presentation (and concert) by a professional organist of some standing in the city and had the vestments and silver at St Thomas's Anglican Church discussed with the students by the rector as someone who 'uses' them.
- Supported with department funds (with other departments), Simon Raposo, an MA student in Philosophy and also a recent graduate from the BA History. He is one of the three Arts students selected as a Winner by the Global Undergraduate Awards (GUA) in Ireland, the largest international academic awards program in the world.
- IID student conference April 1, 2023 organized and led by Dr. Arne Kislenko

Other initiatives in support of student learning:

- Consultations with subject librarian, Val Lem, Dr. Jean Li has helped facilitate the acquisition of portions of the libraries of Professor Sally Katary† (Laurentian University) and Dr. Steven Shubert† by increasing our holdings on Egyptology, Archaeology, and ancient History.

Recommendation #: 4

Actions:

- Form and maintain strong ties with our Program Advisory Council
- Ensure that the department's physical space needs are considered in space planning for the Faculty of Arts

Timeline: 2022 Winter Semester (for PAC) and ongoing

Responsibility for Leading Initiative: Department Chair, Program Advisory Council, department membership

- A dedicated office has been provided for CUPE.

Recommendation #: 5

Recommendation: Enhance communication to increase the profile of the department by finding ways to market the unique attributes of the program inside and outside the university; communicate more effectively with present and future students about the value of a history degree in the workforce and a realistic and practical assessment of the opportunities available to them; provide information about and assistance in pursuing diverse career options

- Night talks/ live webinars with Q&A); use these to promote existing programs like Heritage Management and the co-op.

Actions:

- Communicate more effectively with present and future students about the value of a history degree in the workforce and a realistic and practical assessment of the opportunities available to them, e.g., through networking and careers events/webinars with History alumni, PAC members and others, promotion of the co-op program, internships, and Heritage Management courses
- Working with Career & Co-op Centre staff, provide information about and assistance in pursuing diverse career options
 - Hire work/study student for dissemination of information via social media

Timeline: initiated and ongoing

Responsibility for Leading Initiative: Department Chair, UPD, UPA, Faculty Co-Op Advisor, members of department

Responsibility for Approving Recommendation: Dept Chair and UPD

- The Publicity and Website Committee have been responsible for cleaning up the program website, creating and disseminating monthly newsletters and posting regular updates about student and faculty activities, as well as highlighting the strengths of the program, for example during Black History Month.

Recommendation #: 6

Recommendation: Ensure that the work of the EDI subcommittee (see Recommendation 1) consider the working conditions of all contract faculty contributing to the program, including ways to include them in the departmental community that will make them feel valued and appreciated, and will benefit their career aspirations. Given the robust finances that flow annually from the Chang School of Education, increase available funds to contract faculty to match the professional development funds (e.g. books, travel, and so forth) available to tenure stream faculty.

Actions:

- Annual review of professional development funds available to contract lecturers in the department
- Continued inclusion of CLs in regular department meetings and correspondence as well as Department Council
- Ensure that physical space for CLs (e.g., offices) within the department is included in communication of space needs to the Dean of Arts

Timeline: 2021-ongoing

Responsibility for Leading Initiative: Department Chair

Responsibility for Approving Recommendation: Faculty Dean

- Professional development funds available to contract lecturers in the department
- Inclusion of CLs in regular department meetings as well as Department Council
- Physical space for CLs (e.g., offices) within the department
- Inclusion on website and in communication on accomplishments