Graduate Studies

1 YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT
Submitted: April 25, 2023

Graduate Program:	**Policy Studies (PhD)**
Peer Review Team:	Dr. David Siegel, Brock University Dr. Mara Sidney, Rutgers University-Newark Department of Political Science Dr. Haomiao Yu, Department of Economics, TMU
Site Visit:	January 18, 19 and 21, 2022 (virtual)
PRT Report:	February 2, 2022
Program Response:	March 11, 2022
YSGS Response:	March 11, 2022
Approved by Senate:	May 3, 2022
1 Year Follow Up Due:	May 3, 2023

As mandated by Toronto Metropolitan University Senate Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs[1], within one year of Senate approval of the PPR, a 1 Year Follow-Up Report is to be submitted to the Faculty Dean or Dean of Record and the Vice-Provost and Dean, YSGS, on the progress of the implementation plan and any further recommendations. This follow-up report will be also be reviewed by Programs and Planning Committee, YSGS Council, and finally Senate. The PPR Report to Senate may also include a date(s) for subsequent Follow-up Reports.

What follows are the PRT recommendations, the program responses, YSGS responses, and the implementation plan, including the 1 year follow-up status reports by the program.

[1] https://www.torontomu.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol126.pdf

PRT RECOMMENDATIONS, PROGRAM/FACULTY DEAN/YSGS RESPONSES + PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND 1 YEAR FOLLOW UP

PRT Recommendations	PhD Policy Studies Program Response	Proposed Program Action	Faculty of Arts Dean Response	Program Timeline and Responsibility/Lead	YSGS Response	Policy Studies (PhD) 1 Year Follow Up
1. Student Resources. The program should have adequate resources to continue to attract high-quality students, and to facilitate progress-to-degree. Resources include funding packages, and regular access to RA, TA, and course teaching opportunities. Access to appropriate work space also should be provided.	This was included in our Development Plan. The program undertook an external scan of other programs completed in Dec 2021 in anticipation of the PRT report. University of Toronto and York University both offer better funding packages.[2]	Work with the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office to identify ways to offer more secure TA packages to students that would allow our funding offers to be closer to $25,000-$30,000 for four or five years.	Funding: In recent years, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts has committed significant funding to all Faculty of Arts graduate programs. In light of ongoing budget cuts and the current financial climate, we do not anticipate increasing support at this time. However, the Associate Dean, Graduate Studies will work with the program's GPD to help the program forge ties with Arts department chairs with the goal of creating additional TAGA opportunities. At present, we cannot guarantee TA packages nor can we commit to 5th year funding for any PhD programs. Nevertheless, we will remain attentive to the needs of the program. Space: Given our downtown location, the Faculty of Arts and the University as a whole face considerable challenges in securing additional space for	GPD develops a proposal with the Faculty of Arts Dean's office by August 2022.	Regarding student funding, it is important to be aware of the current constraints on revenue from graduate programs while still raising awareness of this concern. YSGS is continually advocating for increased institutional funding of graduate students. Unfortunately, the recent tuition fee reduction imposed on universities and the freezing of additional graduate positions by the province has made increases in funding difficult. Despite this, the university has made substantial investments in graduate studies in recent years. For example, central funding for fourth year PhD students and the TMU Graduate Scholarships have been established in the last three years. YSGS has also established scholarships for Black and Indigenous students, and it has transferred all of its carry-forward funding to graduate programs across the university. YSGS is impressed with the level of research funding obtained by the faculty members involved in the program and it encourages the program to continue working on increasing stipend and research assistant support to graduate students.	The Faculty of Arts Dean has provided support to the Policy Studies program to raise the minimum financial package offered domestic students from $21,000 to $25,000 for four years for new admissions starting Fall 2023.

[2] PhD Policy Studies program offers a basic package of $21,000 for four years, York University offers about $24,000 and the University of Toronto about $26,500, both for five years.

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			faculty offices, research space, and graduate student space. We are committed to prioritizing suitable space for this PhD program.		Regarding student workspace, this is outside of YSGS' purview, but YSGS supports the Faculty response. YSGS is happy to work with the Faculty and the Program on finding solutions to this important need.	
2. Administrative resources. The program should have adequate administrative resources.	*See specific responses below.*	*See specific actions below.*	*See specific responses below.*	*See specifics below.*		The Faculty of Arts has designated space for a Policy Studies student lounge in JOR after July 1, 2023 and additional space will be provided to the soon to be established School of Public Policy and Democratic Innovation, which will house the Policy Studies PhD program.
a. There should be designated space for the program, including office space for the director and graduate program administrator, and office space and a lounge for students.	This is included in our Development Plan. The GPD and GPA have offices near each other. The emphasis of the recommendation is about creating a program hub including formal and informal study space. Currently, the program has no allocated space in the	Request the Faculty of Arts Dean's office undertake an analysis of our needs and include it in a space plan of the Faculty of Arts.	Space is incredibly limited in the Faculty of Arts; we are struggling to locate new office space for our rapidly expanding Faculty. That said, we will work with the GPD to undertake an analysis of student space needs and include this in the space plan for the Faculty of Arts.	1. GPD meets with the Faculty of Arts Dean and Graduate Dean by May 31, 2022 to seek to identify a common space that can be used in the next year for shared office space and lounge in Jorgenson Hall or other campus facilities in 2022-2023.	YSGS is agrees the the program is lacking in dedicated space for its students. YSGS will work with the Faculty and the Program to advocate for additional space. It is hoped that the universities evolution to a hybrid work environment will open up additional space for graduate students in this program and others that have similar needs.	

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	Faculty of Arts or Graduate School.			2. GPD makes a formal *space plan* request (by August 1, 2022).		
b. An assistant director should be added to assist the program director.	The Executive Committee[3] considered this recommendation and believes it only makes sense in conjunction with establishing a Policy Centre (see Development Plan).	Formally present the Policy Centre concept to the Faculty of Arts Dean for consideration.	We wish to address the development of a policy centre and its staffing as an autonomous issue. At the moment, there is no plan to create assistant director positions for any other graduate program. To conflate the two issues (the PhD Program and a policy centre) may create unnecessary challenges/ obstacles.	GPD set up a meeting with the Faculty of Arts Dean to consider creation of a Policy Centre (by May 31, 2022).	YSGS notes that such an assistant director position does not exist in any graduate program at the University and YSGS is not supportive of creating such a position. YSGS supports the Faculty response on staffing in any potential Policy Centre.	This was determined to not be necessary by the program and Faculty of Arts.
c. The graduate program administrator position should be increased to one full-time equivalent.	This is included in our Development Plan.	Make formal request for Faculty of Arts to increase GPA from half to full FTE	We will work with Human Resources to undertake a review of the position and take the appropriate measures.	1. GPD request review to be undertaken in Winter/Spring 2022 2. Request position be made full-time by Fall 2023	YSGS supports the Faculty response. YSGS notes that graduate program administrators are typically responsible for two graduate programs. In some cases, this would be a master's program and a doctoral program in the same discipline.	No action at this time. This will be reviewed by the new school head and Faculty of Arts as the new school is established.
3. Curriculum. The program should review the current curriculum and streams, giving serious consideration to eliminating the streams.	Development Plan calls for curriculum review and is underway including consideration of eliminating or modifying tracks.	Complete curriculum review by May 2022 and present recommendations to Program Council	The Dean of Arts looks forward to reviewing and discussing the Program Council's recommendations.	Curriculum Committee will make a recommendation to Program Council by May 2022	YSGS notes that such a change would likely be considered a major modification and encourages the program to review the policies and procedures related to this in Senate Policy 127. YSGS is happy to work with the program in developing a proposal for this change.	In consultation with the Dean's office, this will be deferred until the new School is established and considered in light of

[3] The Executive Committee is the general policy making body of the program and has the authority of the Graduate Program Council when not in session. It is made up of the GPD, three program faculty members, one from each stream, and one graduate student.

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						the school's mission and focus.
4. Governance Structure. The program should review the existing committee structure to ensure it operates efficiently. The governance structure also should operate intentionally to generate a sense of ownership and investment among faculty, and to create routes to program leadership. It is possible that some standing committees could be eliminated while other committees could gain responsibilities. Or, more flexible, short- term working groups could be created to respond to emerging issues as needed.	Development Plan calls for streamlining program governance.	Executive committee will review bylaws with the aim of streamlining program governance	The Dean of Arts looks forward to reviewing and discussing the Program Council's streamlining recommendation.	Executive Committee will make recommendation to Program Council by May 2022	YSGS notes that the governance structure is dictated by Senate Policy 45 and is happy to work with the program in revising their governance structure. It is especially supportive of any changes that "generate a sense of ownership and investment among faculty." This could have the effect of increased support for the program from its members.	In consultation with the Dean's office, this will be deferred until the new School is established and considered in light of the school's mission and focus.

Summary Statement/Conclusion:

Since the Policy Studies PhD PPR was undertaken a new School of Policy Studies and Democratic Innovation in the Faculty of Arts is in the process of being established. The school will house the Policy Studies PhD program. The Policy Studies GPD met with the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean of Research & Graduate Studies and the Dean to consider whether to move forward on curriculum and governance reforms given the new structural arrangements with the program being moved under the new School. The new school has implications for the program governance (e.g., bylaws, faculty membership) and the mission of the new school provides a new context for consideration of program curriculum. Therefore, it was agreed that the administrative support, curriculum review and governance processes review (PRT Recommendations 2c, 3, and 4) be deferred until the new school is up and running in 2023-2024.