

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
TO THE REGULAR November 2020 SENATE**

FOR DISCUSSION

**QUALITY ASSURANCE - CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY'S
CLASSICAL AND ANCIENT STUDIES PROGRAMS
FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, NOVEMBER 2020**

In accordance with the Laurentian University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Final Assessment Report has been prepared to provide a synthesis of the external evaluation and Laurentian's response and action plan. This report identifies the significant strengths of the program, opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

The report includes an Implementation Plan that identifies who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the Final Assessment Report; who will be responsible for providing any resources made necessary by those recommendations; any changes in organization, policy or governance that will be necessary to meet the recommendations; who will be responsible for acting on those recommendations; and timelines for acting on and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.

**SUMMARY OF THE CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF THE CLASSICAL AND ANCIENT STUDIES
PROGRAMS**

On 15 January 2019, the Ancient Studies Department submitted its self-study a year to the day (15 January 2018), after it had been requested, but still on the deadline set by the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost.¹

At the time of the self-study, the Department of Ancient Studies, housed at Thorneloe University, offered the following undergraduate programs in two streams: Classical Studies and Ancient Studies. There is no graduate program. The degrees are as follows:

- Specialization, Classical Studies (under review²)
- Major, Classical Studies (under review)
- Concentration, Classical Studies (under review)
- Certificate, Classical Studies
- Specialization, Ancient Studies (under review)
- Major, Ancient Studies (under review)
- Minor, Ancient Studies

¹ It is worth noting that the previous review of the program has been conducted in 2008-2009 meaning that this review ten years later, anchored in the 2018-2019 academic year fell outside the normal seven—and at the most eight—year gap allowed between reviews by Laurentian's IQAP process. Members of the Department had asked the former Dean about the delay several times but were told the review would take place in due course and they would be informed when.

² In the self-study, as explicitly requested by the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost. The two Certificates and the minor were not reviewed.

- Certificate, Ancient Studies

The main body of the self-study presented an overview of the program and then reviewed the program's self-perception of the faculty, library, physical resources, students, program regulations, and how the program harmonized with the strategic goals and mission of the University. It concluded with an overall assessment of the program's strengths and weaknesses.

Included in the self-study was the longest list of appendices ever received by ACAPLAN, namely:

A IQAP Document 2018

B Program Requirements:

- Specialization in Classical Studies, Major in Classical Studies,
- Concentration in Classical Studies
- Specialization in Ancient Studies, Major in Ancient Studies

C Current Students Survey 2018

D Alumni Students Survey

E Faculty CV's

F Registration by Instructor 2015-2018

G Full List of Ancient Studies, Greek, and Latin courses

H Library Collection Development Policy

I Degrees Granted 2013-2017

J Enrolment 2013-2017

K Enrolment by Course Sections 2015-2018

L Enrolment by Course Code 2015-2018

M Ancient Studies – On Campus - Course Outlines

N Greek and Latin Courses – On Campus - Outlines

O Ancient Studies - Online Course Outlines

P Thorneloe University's Strategic Plan

Q Laurentian University's Strategic Plan

R Ancient Studies Course Evaluation Summary

A separate sheet also listed nine academics that could be approached to act as the external reviewer.

On 11 and 12 November 2019, after reviewing the self-study, the Review Team conducted a site visit. The external was [Dr. Aara Suksi](#), Associate Professor, Classical Studies at the University of Western Ontario. In addition, the team consisted of two Laurentian professors, one from within the Faculty of Arts, Dr. Janis Goldie, Chair, Communication Studies at Huntington University and the other from outside the faculty, Dr. Fabrice Colin, Professeur agrégé au département de mathématiques et d'informatique from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Architecture. Finally, there were two students from the Classical Studies program, Katherine Beaton and Jordyn Ihasz.

The site visit was thorough and included a tour of the classrooms, offices, administrative spaces, and student spaces in Thorneloe University as well as a few sites on the main campus, including the J.N. Desmarais library.

During the two days, the Review Team met with various stakeholders including senior administrators (President & Vice-Chancellor of Thorneloe) Dr. John Gibaut, V.P. Academic & Provost: Dr. Serge Demers, Associate V.P. Learning and Teaching: Dr. Shelley Watson and the Dean of Arts: Dr. Joël Dickinson). The team also met with the University Librarian, Brent Roe, and Desmond Maley who is the liaison librarian for the program, albeit based in the Desmarais Library.

In addition, the team met with professors teaching in the program including full-time tenured faculty Dr. Louis L'Allier and Dr. Aven McMaster³, and sessional instructors Dr. Mark Sundaram, Prof. Allan Daoust, and Dr. Liz Warman, who handles the distance-learning courses in the Department. It also met two professors in related disciplines, Dr. Philippa Spoel, from the English Department, and Dr. Janice Liedl, from the History Department. With both of these faculty the committee was able to discuss teaching, particularly in the areas of rhetorical studies and pre-Modern history. Finally, the team was able to interview Paul McGilver, a graduate of the Ancient Studies Department, now pursuing a PhD in Classics at the University of Western Ontario. The only students interviewed were the two on the review team.

In their report dated 22 November 2019, the reviewers noted that:

The Department of Ancient Studies at Thorneloe University benefits from a well-qualified, diverse, and dedicated faculty (both permanent and sessional) who consistently go above and beyond their normal workload to deliver high quality programming. This is to be applauded. Students appreciate the quality of teaching, detailed feedback, and mentoring from both permanent and sessional faculty, and the chance to interact with instructors in small classes. The Department's programs are well designed to efficiently train students to meet the learning objectives of both the Programs and of the University. Alumni report that the programs have prepared them well for satisfying careers and/or graduate programs. Finally, faculty expressed that they feel supported [and] heard by [the] administration.

More specifically, the Review team noted:

- The program objectives are consistent with the institution's mission and academic plans.
- The program requirements are well aligned with all the institution's undergraduate degree level expectations, and appropriate for the discipline.

³ The third full-time faculty member, Dr. Guy Chamberland was on sabbatical during the review.

- Admission requirements match the generic admission requirements for the Faculty of Arts at Laurentian, as is appropriate for the programs.
- The curriculum is extremely well designed to cover as broad a range as possible of content and current methodological approaches.
- A significant part of the curriculum in the Department has been designed for online delivery, a challenging area in which many Classics departments have not made very much progress.
- It is no small creative challenge to design a comprehensive curriculum, including training in two languages, that leads students through a rational progression over four years, with a limited number of faculty available to deliver it.... The Department has found some elegant solutions to several challenges that could well serve as models for programs at other institutions.
- The faculty have used traditional texts from ancient Greece and Rome in the classroom to reflect on processes of colonization, indigenous experiences, and on expressions of identity in terms of sexuality, race, class, and ethnicity. These discussions are not always easy to manage, and many Classicists shy away from them. The faculty members in the Ancient Studies Department can truly be said to be leading the way in this area for the discipline in Canada and beyond, by introducing innovative courses, by approaching traditional material from new perspectives, and by leading discussions of [their] teaching methods both at professional meetings of Classicists across the continent, and in online media.
- Students are assessed by a variety of means that are well designed to progressively develop the defined learning outcomes and degree level expectations.
- The Department of Ancient Studies makes effective use of the human resources available to deliver its programs. The curriculum has been very efficiently designed to train students in a broad range of content and methods, and to support the development of their academic skills as they progress through their programs.
- The library resources available to students and faculty seem adequate to the teaching mission of the Department of Ancient Studies.
- The current full-time permanent faculty are all tenured, actively researching, publishing, and presenting their work at conferences. All three have respectable publication records, especially considering the amount of teaching they do and their commitment to service both on campus and in the discipline of Classics nationally and internationally.

Amidst these encomiums, there were some concerns expressed about the program in the body of the report (not all of which were addressed in the final set of recommendations).

- The Department does not have a mission statement.
- Program requirements on the Laurentian University website conflict with information on the Thorneloe University website⁴. This has led to some confusion and adds to the burden of the Chair, who is responsible for academic counselling.
- The curriculum would be enhanced by providing some opportunities for experiential learning.
- In recent months there have been some losses in the part-time teaching pool available to the Department, and in the discipline of Classics it can often be difficult to find qualified instructors locally.
- There is no course release given for faculty who take on the administrative burden of chairing the Department.
- There are faculty in English, History, Archaeology, in particular, who have much to contribute to the Ancient Studies Programs, and their departments would also benefit from greater possibilities for participation by Ancient Studies faculty. For example, there are francophone faculty in Ancient Studies who could contribute francophone courses in History. There are, however, complex institutional obstacles to such collaborations.
- Students and sessionals could use more dedicated space.
- An area of considerable concern is the recent departure of the person responsible for technical assistance for instructors at Thorneloe University. This position is especially crucial for the continuing delivery of the distance/online courses which are an important component of the programs in Ancient Studies. Technical support is also important for the delivery of content in the physical classrooms at Thorneloe.
- The program does not receive the support it needs from Laurentian in terms of recruitment, academic advising, and the tracking of graduates.
- The original Classical Studies programs were divided into two separate sets of programs, one for Classical Studies, which includes course in the ancient languages, and another for Ancient Studies, which has no language requirement. While this has

⁴ Example: On Laurentian's website, Dr. Sally Katary is listed as a faculty member. Dr. Katary has been deceased since 2017.

attracted students who were not interested in language study, it does result in a lower program enrolments for each set of programs.

On 26 June 2020, the Department submitted its comments, as well as the Dean's and Provost's comments on the Review Team's recommendations. A summary of this document follows:

SUMMARY OF THE REVIEW TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS (R) THE DEPARTMENT'S (D) RESPONSES AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE DEAN OF ARTS (DA) AND THE PROVOST (P) OF THORNELOE UNIVERSITY

R1: The members of the Department of Ancient Studies should compose a general mission statement for the purpose of public outreach and as a guiding statement for future curriculum design. The creation of such a statement, perhaps as part of a Departmental retreat reflecting on the curriculum in general, can be useful in the processes of considering the consistency of student experiences of courses in the programs, the role of the curriculum in current global contexts, and the contribution the discipline has to make to communities on campus and beyond. The mission statement, if designed to be published online on the Department web page, can also serve to enhance the visibility of the Department and its programs.

D1: Agreed. In light of our response to Recommendation 6, however, this mission statement should wait until the future of the Classical Studies program is settled. A number of courses will be revised or deleted during the next academic year. A mission statement should be undertaken afterwards, in the Spring of 2021.

DA1: Agreed.

P1: Agreed

R2: Information about course requirements for programs in the Ancient Studies Department should be audited and coordinated on the websites for Laurentian University and Thorneloe University.

D2: Agreed. It is now possible for Chairs to access on their own the Laurentian website to update their program information. The current Chair was initiated to this feature over four years ago, but that was when his term was coming to an end. He will set up an appointment to review the procedures.

DA2: Good to hear.

P2: Agreed.

R3: The Department should seek support from the University in developing opportunities for experiential learning for students in Ancient Studies and Classical Studies, in line with the goals outlined in Laurentian University's strategic plan.

D3: We occasionally have students who register in field courses offered by other universities. Most of the time, they wish to have such courses credited. It has never been a problem to obtain permission from the Chair and Registrar's Office. While students have always reached out to faculty members when they wished to register in such courses, it would be possible to provide some information on the Thorneloe and Laurentian websites on what ANCS course codes can be used and what the students should obtain from the director of the course/dig that the ANCS Chair will need to

assess eligibility. In addition, a link could be provided on the Thorneloe website to newsletters where summer programs are advertised, such as the *Canadian Classical Bulletin*.

We occasionally hire a teaching assistant for the Greek and Latin courses. We are aware that this is an excellent opportunity for our best students to acquire some teaching experience.

DA3: We also have developed a course for a Community Placement that is available for all Arts students. If you have suggestions on organizations where students can get appropriate experiential learning for this field please contact Charles Daviau and let him know.

P3: I concur with DA3. This is a practical way already at hand to respond to Recommendation 3.

R4: **The addition of a permanent tenure stream position in the Ancient Studies Department should be given serious consideration at such time as funding conditions allow. This same recommendation was made in the report of the previous program review, submitted ten years ago. Such a position would alleviate the burden of overload teaching and administrative duties currently taken on by the full-time faculty in the Department and it would create more stable and reliable human resources when planning the curriculum from one year to the next. It would also contribute to the research profile of the Department, which, while it is quite respectable, could be enhanced if there were more time available for faculty to commit to research and to seek external funding.**

D4: While well-intentioned, this recommendation is most unrealistic in the current financial context. In addition, if Thorneloe had the financial means to hire a new faculty member, priority would be given to Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies which is currently run with a single tenured member.

DA4: I will leave this for the President to comment on.

P4: I concur with the Department's response. At present Ancient Studies is the only department at Thorneloe University with three full-time faculty members.

R5: **Thorneloe University and Laurentian University should work with the campus unions to find ways to overcome the obstacles to more sharing of faculty among Departments in the Faculty of Arts. This was also a recommendation in the report of the previous review of the Department.**

D5: It would probably be a good idea to investigate the possibility of cross listing courses between [our programs ... and others on the main campus such as] Archaeology, History, English, Philosophy, etc. The advantage of using an ANCS code for a course from another program is that it requires no explanation in Self Service or WebAdvisor as to why it counts as an ANCS elective. Currently, courses from other programs are at the bottom of the list and students rarely seem to notice them. This is true as well of our courses when they count as electives in other programs. As well, any discussion within the Faculty of Arts concerning a closer integration of programs now housed at Thorneloe into the main Laurentian administrative structure may result in changes that would help the department better address this recommendation.

DA5: I am in full agreement with this recommendation and will continue working toward a solution to this barrier.

P5: I concur.

R6: **The Department should consider whether it might benefit from consolidating the Ancient Studies and Classical Studies program streams, and also creating a Minor in Greek and/or Latin, with the understanding that Minors will be tracked and counted. The language Minor could be attractive to students who are drawn to Latin or Greek as a result of taking one of the ancient languages to fulfil their second language requirement, and it could be combined with a Major in the Ancient Studies Department, thus increasing the Department's program enrolments while still providing the training necessary for students wishing to apply for graduate programs in Classics.**

D6: Given the current financial situation, the President of Thorneloe University has asked the Chair of Ancient Studies to reconsider the future of the Classics program. In addition, we understand that intermediate (2nd-year) and advanced Greek and Latin courses could be suspended indefinitely. The three tenured faculty members are of the opinion that the calendar should not mislead students into thinking that this program and the language courses might be offered in the near future. We are, therefore, considering the cancellation of the Classics program altogether.

The consequence, of course, is that this recommendation will not be implemented. Quite the opposite: with the loss of the languages, the program will lose much of its appeal for students who might join the program with the idea of pursuing their studies at the M.A. level.

The Department will try to convince the Thorneloe Administration that the maintenance of the Greek and Latin language courses at the intermediate and advanced levels would benefit the University. All these low-enrolment courses would be offered as overloads for a very small stipend (including Intermediate Latin which, until 2019/20, was offered as part of the instructor's regular load). The creation of a Minor in Greek and Latin would be a no-cost, efficient way to give some structure to the program in the absence of a B.A. in Classical Studies.

DA6: I am willing to work with the Dept to try to find a way to include language as a component of their program that can be achievable within the current fiscal realities.

P6: I concur with both the Dean of Arts and the Chair. Having an identifiable language component in the form of a minor would be an advantage and would address some of the financial costs in the upper year courses. Sadly, minors are not recognized for funding purposes.

R7: **The addition of a second-floor washroom, an extra classroom with a capacity of roughly 70–100 students, an additional space for sessional instructors to hold office hours, and a space dedicated to students (recommended in the last report of the program reviewer) for the purpose of studying, socializing, revitalizing the Student Society, and planning student events should be included in any future plans for renovations to Thorneloe University.**

- D7:** The Department has no decision power with regard to building issues, but over the years faculty members have insisted that classroom and student spaces were major concerns, as well as the lack of a washroom on the second floor. While the closure of the Theatre Arts and Motion Picture Arts programs is unfortunate, classroom space will not be a major issue any longer. A much greater priority should be given to the maintenance and updating of classroom computers, which have increasingly failed us in the past two years (see response to Recommendation 8).
The small student space on the second floor (which was created after the previous departmental review) is well used and, to our knowledge, much appreciated.
- DA7:** I leave this to the President to respond to.
- P7:** While I am entirely sympathetic with the reviewer's comments, at present, there are no plans for renovations at Thorneloe. New classroom computers, however, have already been purchased, and will be ready when in class teaching resumes.
- R8:** **It is urgent that the need for technical support for teaching online and in classrooms be addressed, by replacing the person who had been providing this support until recently.**
- D8:** We agree with this recommendation though the Department has no power to implement it. The fact that teaching will be done remotely in the Fall gives some more time for the University to address this issue, but the classroom computers were already in urgent need of being updated. If classes return to campus in the Winter term, those computers, if not updated or replaced, might also become a major security concern.
- DA8:** I leave this to the President to respond to.
- P8:** With the austerity measures imposed in 2019-20, it was not possible to replace the person who has responsibility for online courses. In 2020, Thorneloe has hired on contract an instructional designer and an online course manager.
- R9:** **Efforts should be made to enhance communication between the support offices at Laurentian University and the departments of the federated universities for the purposes of recruitment, promotion, academic counselling, and alumni development.**
- D9:** We agree with this recommendation and ask that Thorneloe and/or Laurentian provide the department with resources to assist in carrying it out. The Chair will continue to try to meet with the various offices and staff members at Laurentian to share knowledge and participate in ongoing initiatives.
- DA9:** Agreed and I will facilitate in any way that I can.
- P9:** Agreed.
- R10:** **It would be advisable for Laurentian University to develop a system for maintaining contact with program alumni and tracking student outcomes more thoroughly.**
- D10:** Agreed, especially since our students obtain a Laurentian degree.
- DA10:** Agreed and again I will work with the Department to facilitate this initiative.
- P10:** Agreed. Students who take courses at Thorneloe are students of Laurentian University.

ACAPLAN'S RESPONSE

In mid-2019, after the self-study was submitted, Thorneloe's financial condition significantly deteriorated. In mid-2019, the Board of Governors of Laurentian University, faced with its own financial challenges, slashed transfer payments to Thorneloe.⁵ The main casualty of this new reality was that Thorneloe's esteemed program in Theatre Arts and Motion Picture Arts was closed by Thorneloe's Board effective July 1, 2020. The Thorneloe Provost also requested that the Ancient Studies Department consider suspending its Classics programs. Under these circumstances the Department decided to recommend the elimination of all Classics programs.

ACAPLAN endorses this new recommendation as well as most of the recommendations of the Review Team but it cannot support the following:

R4: The addition of a permanent tenure stream position in the Ancient Studies Department should be given serious consideration at such time as funding conditions allow.

Reason: As the Department points out, given Thorneloe's precarious finances, it is simply not feasible to try to implement this recommendation, particularly because the Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies would have the first claim on a new position.

R7: The addition of a second-floor washroom, an extra classroom with a capacity of roughly 70-100 students, an additional space for sessional instructors to hold office hours, and a space dedicated to students (recommended in the last report of the program reviewer) for the purpose of studying, socializing, revitalizing the Student Society, and planning student events should be included in any future plans for renovations to Thorneloe University.

Reason: Same financial considerations as above. As the Provost points out: There are no plans for renovations at Thorneloe. New classroom computers, however, have already been purchased, and will be ready when in class teaching resumes.

A third recommendation has already been addressed, namely:

R8: It is urgent that the need for technical support for teaching online and in classrooms be addressed, by replacing the person who had been providing this support until recently.

Explanation: According to the Provost, in 2020, Thorneloe has hired on contract an instructional designer and an online course manager.

That said, ACAPLAN will make a related recommendation on this topic. ACAPLAN will also set out its recommendations in priority order. The general theme in most of these recommendations is that there needs to be much better communication / cooperation between Laurentian and Thorneloe.

⁵ Instead of a funding formula that recognized the number of Laurentian students taking elective courses at Thorneloe, the formula was changed by Laurentian so that Thorneloe would only be funded for those majoring in a Thorneloe program.

**LAURENTIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT STUDIES**

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline
1. Eliminate all Classics programs including the Certificate program⁶	Create a minor in Greek and Latin	Chair with Dean, CELP and ACAPLAN	June 2021
2. Investigate the possibility of cross listing courses between Ancient Studies and others on the main campus such as Archaeology, History, English, Philosophy	Identify exact courses that could be involved in other programs and examine the financial implications of cross-listing courses between Thorneloe and other institutions	Chair with Dean and Provost	June 2021
3. Create a mission statement for Department	Departmental retreat after curriculum changes have been made	Chair	December 2022
4. Audit information about course requirements for programs in the Ancient Studies Department and coordinate on the websites for Laurentian University and Thorneloe University	LU has already allowed chairs to edit LU pages; discrepancies need to be identified and remedied. This will be particularly important once the Classics program has been eliminated	Chair	December 2020 and ongoing
5. The Department should seek support from the University in developing opportunities for experiential learning for students in Ancient Studies and Classical Studies, in line with the goals outlined in Laurentian University's strategic plan	<p>i. Identify some field courses at other universities that would allow for (have been used in the past) experiential learning</p> <p>ii. Communicate such information on the Thorneloe and Laurentian websites on what ANCS course codes can be used and what the students should obtain from the director of the course/dig</p>	<p>i. Chair with colleagues</p> <p>ii. Chair</p>	<p>i. December 2020</p> <p>ii. December 2020</p>

⁶ It is worth pointing out that up to 18 credits in Greek and/or Latin can be taken to complete the Certificate in *Ancient Studies*.

	that the ANCS Chair will need to assess eligibility		iii. December 2020
	iii. Provide links on the Thorneloe website to newsletters where summer programs are advertised, such as the <i>Canadian Classical Bulletin</i>	iii. Chair	
	iv. Consider using course in Community Placement available to all Arts students	iv. Chair with Charles Daviau	iv. December 2020
6. To address support for teaching online and in classrooms consider devolving this activity to the CAE⁷	Explore how CAE could help Thorneloe with online instruction	Provost with AVP Learning and Teaching	June 2021
7. Get Laurentian involved in taking primary responsibility for recruitment, promotion, academic counselling, and alumni development at Thorneloe	Meet with President Haché	Provost	December 2020

The Dean of Arts shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation plan. The details of progress made shall be presented in the Dean's Annual Report and filed with the Vice-President Academic and Provost as well as the Provost of Thorneloe University. The Executive Summary and the monitoring reports will be posted on Laurentian University's web site.

CONCLUSION

The Ancient Studies programs are approved to continue, and will be reviewed in the fall of 2027.

⁷ It is not unprecedented for certain services to be centralized at Laurentian. Thorneloe has already transferred its library to Laurentian who fully supports Thorneloe students, including offering library instruction, and Laurentian has been supplying interlibrary loan services centrally since 2007.