

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

FOR DISCUSSION

Eighteen-month follow-up from ACAPLAN's recommendations from the Program Review for the following program: **Economics**

Below is an excerpt from the Institutional Quality Assessment Process at Laurentian University approved at the Quality Council in June 2011 and revised in 2018 and 2019.

PROCESS FOR FOLLOW-UP

No later than 18 months after Senate submission, those responsible for implementing the changes writes a report to the Dean and to ACAPLAN, on the actions it has taken in response to the review.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE – CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF LAURENTIAN
UNIVERSITY'S
ECONOMICS
18-MONTH FOLLOW UP REPORT**

A Follow-up Report of the Department of Economics on the recommendations of the ACAPLAN:

1. Expand Faculty Complement.

The Department fully agrees with the recommendation that one new bilingual faculty member be hired in our Department. A new bilingual faculty member will fill a major gap in our faculty resources. The new member will teach courses in our French program and English programs. The addition of a new member will give flexibility to our Department in offering required and elective courses.

The Department has conveyed the need for a new bilingual faculty member to the Dean.

2. Support those students with math deficiencies

The ACAPLAN recommends that students in economics should be required to take 6 credits of Math courses.

In principle, our department supports the above recommendation. Currently, students in specialization and major programs are required to take three credits of Math (Econ 2127EL). However, without hiring a new full-time faculty member, it is impossible to offer 6 credits of math in our department.

3. Expand the pool of available elective courses.

Our Department fully supports this recommendation. Currently, many of our elective courses are offered at the 3000 or 4000 level. We have formed a timetable committee which has rationalized our offering of elective courses. We are now offering more regular elective courses and less elective courses under the headings “selected Topics” and “Directed Readings.” Furthermore, we are offering elective courses on a two-year rotation.

Still, the number of elective courses we offer is constrained by inadequate faculty resources. Accordingly, sometimes, students in our Department have to take online elective courses from other universities.

4. Recruit more francophone students and women

We support the above recommendation and on many occasions expressed the need for increased involvement of our department in the recruitment process, especially involving international students.

The department invited Benoit Clement from Laurentian International to a Department meeting on March 4 of this year to give a presentation on recruitment of francophone students from Africa.

5. Establish a Coop program for interested students.

The external reviewer of our program called for exploring the possibility of introducing coop programs in our Department. Our Department supports this recommendation.

In the meeting on October 23, we invited Rachel Meehan, Special Advisor on leadership and Experiential Learning. In her presentation, Ms. Meehan provided an overview of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and Laurentian University partnership on Leadership and Experiential Learning (EL) at Laurentian University.

In the meeting on November 27, we invited Prof. Patricia Orozco to give a presentation on Coop, placement, and internship programs at Laurentian.

6. Bring in guest speakers

The Department invited Dr. Charles Beach, professor Emeritus, Queens University, a former president of the Canadian Economics Association, to give a keynote address during the Research Week on February 27, 2020. His presentation focused on the family income distribution in Canada.

7. Create New MA program

In the past, the Department prepared proposals to introduce an MA program in economics. Currently, our faculty resources cover essential courses in English and French programs. With current faculty resources, it will be difficult to offer an MA program. However, with hiring of additional faculty members, our Department is fully capable of offering a high quality MA program that can attract students from within Canada and from other countries.