

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
TO THE REGULAR November 2019 SENATE**

FOR DISCUSSION

Eighteen-month follow-up from ACAPLAN’s recommendations from the Program Review for the following program: HISPANIC STUDIES.

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 Hispanic Studies Program**

Below I have reproduced the implementation plan presented by ACAPLAN to Senate in February 2018. The plan outlines recommended actions. Under the rubric “Timeline” I added the action taken (or not) for each item. It should be borne in mind that Laurentian University has discontinued the Major in Hispanic Studies. Remaining are three Hispanic Studies Minors:

- 1) Minor in Spanish for the Professional World (which replaces the Minor in Spanish Language)
- 2) Minor in Spanish in Spanish Language and Culture
- 3) Minor in Latin American Studies

**LAURENTIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE PROGRAM
In HISPANIC STUDIES**

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline
5 & 10 & 18 Scheduling issues seem to prevent many interested students from taking Spanish courses	Consult with departments both within and outside of the Faculty of Arts to ensure ESPA courses are offered so that students in other programs are able to take them.	Chair working with Dean of Arts	June 2018 Action taken: The Dean of Arts is cognizant of this systemic problem.
6. We would suggest that course descriptions in the calendar be changed, updated, or fleshed-out to reflect their actual contents. Whenever	Converting ESPA 3136 into a thematically based course.	Chair	September 2018 No action taken: Given that upper-level literature courses will no longer be offered, we have left this course as it is. Should LU decide to restore the Major in Hispanic Studies by making

appropriate, the cultural and historical aspects of the course should be highlighted, over the more linguistic and literary ones.			the necessary hire, the new professor will decide what to do with this course.
7. Improving clarity on some of the course syllabi	Clarifying difference between ESPA 4051 and ESPA 4052 more clearly.	Chair	September 2018 Action taken: ESPA 4052 has been suppressed and replaced by a new course, ESPA 4066 Spanish for the Professions.
8. It is clear that there is more space for collaboration with the School of Education.	Facilitate discussions between the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education regarding language teaching, particularly in light of the new BA requirements (requiring all new BA students to take 6 credits of linguistic awareness)	Dean	September 2018 Action taken: The Dean has been apprised of this problem.
11: Francophone students mentioned to us that they strongly miss having an Introductory Spanish course for them. It is clear that in the past, a first-year ‘French’ course in Spanish facilitated the entry of many francophone students into the ESPA. At present, francophone students are forced into the ‘English’ course; this should be remedied as soon as possible.	Need to increase enrolments and interest to be able to offer a French section of ESPA 1005 FL.	Chair and Dean	November 2018 Action taken: We have communicated to the Dean our enthusiasm for offering a francophone section of ESPA 1005, provided that it be ADDED OVER AND ABOVE the existing 3 anglophone sections. Otherwise, it is no longer possible to offer a French section of ESPA 1005. In the past, the francophone students of Spanish very often opted for an anglophone section of the course, given that those students are nearly all bililingual (French/English). A francophone section would be under-enrolled. For further discussion of this issue, see our original report.
12. The ESPA courses	To encourage effective	Chair	September 2018

<p>should adopt a similar policy requiring upper-year students to put together their bibliography early during the school year, so as to receive useful instructor feedback.</p>	<p>use of library resources, including interlibrary loans by having the instructor of culture courses requiring students to prepare their final bibliography early in the semester.</p>		<p>Action taken: We appreciate this sharing and communication of pedagogical views and strategies. In some cases, it may be appropriate to require a final bibliography early in the semester. In other cases, it is not appropriate. Ultimately, this is a matter of academic freedom.</p>
<p>13. The overall look of the Language Lab L-712 is drab and uninspiring. Faculty members would like very much to be able to improve the decor, placing at least posters and photos pertinent to the program and courses, as done across the seventh-floor corridor.</p>	<p>To either update the décor in L-712 or find a more welcoming space within Campus Modernization parameters</p>	<p>Chair and Dean</p>	<p>January 2019 Action taken: The Chair and Dean have found a new and more welcoming space for our language lab.</p>
<p>14. Faculty members find it difficult to monitor and follow students doing Minors (e.g., the Minor in Latin American Studies). We recommend the ESPA be given the information needed for better recruiting and retention, while still protecting students' personal information</p>	<p>To work with Institutional Planning and the Office of the Registrar to better identify students taking a minor in ESPA</p>	<p>Chair, Dean, Registrar, Director of IP</p>	<p>June 2019 Action taken: We understand that the Dean has been lobbying for access to information on Minors in the Faculty of Arts.</p>
<p>19. All stakeholders and students interviewed by the committee made clear that the Hispanic Studies program is not only important to students majoring in ESPA but also to those</p>	<p>To reach out to various university departments to encourage the students in other programs to pursue courses in ESPA to enhance their career options.</p>	<p>Chair and Dean of Arts</p>	<p>September 2018 Action taken: As always, we regularly reach out to other departments and schools. The new Minor in Spanish for the Professional World has been designed to appeal to students aiming for a professional or business</p>

<p>pursuing degrees in other faculties. It prepares candidates for careers in local, national and international fields.</p>			<p>career. In addition, we have revamped the course ESPA 3516 NL Women in the Hispanic World and now offer it under the same title at the second-year level. ESPA 2516 EL will be offered in English (if ever there is someone to teach it), rather than in Spanish as was the case with ESPA 3516 NL. The new course has been endorsed as an elective by the Departments of English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.</p>
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Respectfully submitted,
Diana Iuele-Colilli, Chair
Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Dean’s Comments:

5 & 10 & 18 -Scheduling

The timetabling this year was done in a collegial and open way where we brought all departments together to help identify possible conflicting courses required by both first and 4th year students. However, the system is not ideal and also does not account for students who may be taking ‘unexpected’ combinations of programs. I feel that we may need assistance from the registrar’s office for further guidance on this issue as it is not unique to this program.

8. Collaboration with School of Education

I feel that the Modern Languages Department has many things to offer all other faculties, and therefore I am more than happy to facilitate these discussions.

11. Francophone sections

This is the decision of the Department. I will support their choice to offer French sections as long as their overall credit allocation is not impacted.

19. Please see response to #8.