



Senate Committee on University Planning

Academic Review Summary: Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Site Visit	February 7, 8, 9, 2023
Informal Response to Planning	April 17, 2023
Formal Response	September 8, 2023
Implementation Update	Fall 2024
Midterm Review	Winter 2027

Review Team Members:

- Dr. Donia Mounsef (Chair) Professor of Drama & Media Studies, Faculty of Arts & Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta
- Dr. Srilata Ravi, Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta
- Dr. Fiona Black, Professor of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University

Note: The following recommendations are taken mostly verbatim from the external review. For context they should be read in conjunction with the department’s formal response.

Recommendations of the Academic Program Review

1. Consider a general program reform to align the Department with current trends in cultural studies and Francophone studies.
2. Strategic positioning of MLL programs and identity development within the Faculty of Arts. This could include the development of more inter-departmental collaborations and interdisciplinary programming and strategies to increase the visibility of MLLC.
3. Enhance course offerings in communication, linguistics, cultural studies and Francophone, and Latin-American studies.
4. The university creates a clear plan for faculty renewal with a specific hiring agenda that considers the current vacancies, future retirements, and sustainability.
5. A commitment to hiring a faculty member (tenure track or contract) in French and Spanish, and more stable teaching support in German and Japanese.
6. Review of teaching loads and administrative responsibility of teaching and Language Lab staff.

7. Continued improvement to the climate and promotion of EDI related principles in all practices and decision-making.
8. Provide specific and Faculty wide training to ensure academic and support staff understand equity, diversity and inclusion and how to promote them.
9. The Department creates a set of policies, guidelines, and procedures relevant to departmental governance and shares with all members.
10. Departmental improvement in scholarly and research culture focused on formative progress and development of research clusters with pertinent undergraduate research initiatives.
11. Consider creating a position of Undergraduate Academic Advisor to ease the demand in mentoring and advising, especially on contract and stipendiary faculty.

NOTE: The university already has two such positions

12. The Faculty of Arts could consider instituting a distributional language requirement (6*) as communication and culture competence in the BA.
13. Develop and support more exchange programs and international learning opportunities that are highly valued by the students.