

April 24, 2024

Dr. Monika Çule, Department Head
Department of Economics
Faculty of Arts

Dear Dr. Çule:

Thank you for taking the time on April 1, 2024 to meet with the Council Committee on Academic Mission and present the five year update from the Economics Department's most recent Academic Review.

The committee commended the department on the major initiatives it has undertaken to address the actionable recommendations from the external report. The committee is also cognizant that department did much of this work during trying times and applauds the fact that the department continued to work through these recommendations when it would have been easier to abandon the initiative. The committee wanted to make mention and congratulate the members of the department who have made considerable and tangible gains in the areas of research dissemination and funding opportunities. At the same time, this report also reminds us that in the case of small academic units, the departure of even one faculty member could cause a setbacks for the unit's plans that

The committee has expressed concerns regarding the department's ongoing discussion around moving the department from its current home within the Faculty of Arts to another Faculty. For a variety of reasons, the committee emphatically cautions the department about the short and long term consequences of continuing this conversation. The Faculty of Business Administration, which the department is considering a potential future home, is in the middle of an exhaustive, multi-year accreditation process; bringing another academic program and its faculty members into the Faculty could undo years of work and could jeopardize the accreditation process. The committee is concerned that there could be challenges for some Economics faculty members moving from the Faculty of Arts to the Faculty of Business Administration where criteria for research, tenure and promotion, and service are quite different. There were also concerns raised about moving from a departmentalized Faculty to a non-departmentalized Faculty where there would no longer be a visible "economics" department. Finally, the committee referred back to all the work that the department has done and the work the department is planning on doing as they move forward and clearly felt that this discussion could be a serious distraction to the long term goals laid out in the series of academic unit review documents provided to CCAM over the last five years.

Again the committee commends everyone in the Department of Economics for taking the Academic Review Process seriously and committing to bettering the experience for everyone in the department but especially your students. Thank you again for the great discussion on April 1.

Yours truly,



Wes Pearce
Chair, Council Committee on Academic Mission
Professor, Theater Department



Dr. Isabelle Dostaler
Provost and Vice-President Academic

Cc: Dr. Shannon Dea
Dean, Faculty of Arts