

Dr. Wes Pearce, Chair  
Council Committee on Academic Mission  
University of Regina

Re: Department of English 5-year report on AUR

Dear Professor Pearce,

I'm writing to provide the 5-year report on the Department of English's most recent Academic Unit Review, completed in 2019. Given that the Department has provided a number of previous updates on its response to the AUR, I focus here on progress made since the last report (June 2022). I've summarized the status of each of the External Reviewers' 27 recommendations in the table, below. Meaningful progress has been made in responding to those recommendations that are within the Department's (and not the Faculty's or University's) purview. You will see that Department declined to implement some of the External Reviewers' recommendations.

I would like to highlight here some of the most important initiatives undertaken in response to the AUR:

- Colleagues have unanimously agreed that the Department's name be changed to English and Creative Writing. A formal recommendation has been submitted to the Dean of Arts, who is charged with seeking institutional approval for the change.
- The Department revived the Coordinator of First Year English position with new Terms of Reference. This position provides crucial support to the first-year English program through instructor mentorship, the organization of pedagogical talks, and as the Department's TA coordinator. The Department has committed to reviewing the scope and duties of the COFYE after an initial 3-year term.
- The Department undertook a comprehensive review of ENGL100 and 110, including extensive consultations within Arts and with other faculties. The review led to a number of recommendations, several of which have been adopted. Others, such as reducing the enrolment cap to 25 and implementing prerequisites and a placement test for ENGL100 cannot be implemented without Faculty and University support.
- The Department has devoted considerable time and effort to curriculum review and renewal. Although there have been some false starts – including a pause triggered by a period of University-wide financial exigency – the process begun in Spring 2023 promises to bear fruit. In December 2023, colleagues agreed on broad principles of program renewal including a move away from historical period requirements and towards thematic streams, providing more student flexibility. A subcommittee will present a proposal for the new model at the next Department meetings, in early March. We expect



University  
of Regina

Faculty  
of Arts

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
Canada S4S 0A2  
Phone: 306-585-4310  
Fax: 306-585-5429  
[www.uregina.ca/arts/english](http://www.uregina.ca/arts/english)

elements of the revised program to begin moving through the approval pipeline beginning in Winter or Spring 2024.

Overall, the AUR provided a valuable opportunity for English to identify its strengths and weaknesses, to reflect on its identity, and to think seriously and deeply about how the program can serve the needs of students, the community, and the university at large. The timing of the AUR's recommendations – only months before the beginning of the pandemic – along with other factors have made the implementation of certain recommendations challenging. It is encouraging to note that there is renewed momentum towards curriculum and program renewal. This work will continue for the next year or more. Once the curriculum and program renewal is complete, the Department will better be placed to turn to some of the other worthy ideas emerging from the AUR (e.g., new certificates or minors).

Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "André Magnan".

André Magnan

Interim Head, English and

Professor, Sociology and Social Studies

	Year 5 and final follow-up	Goals & Initiatives for the next three to five years until the next AUR
<b>External Review Report</b>		
R1: Rename the unit the Department of English and Creative Writing	In December 2023, members unanimously approved changing the name of the Department to English and Creative Writing. This recommendation has been forwarded to the Dean of Arts, who will initiate the next steps in the approval process.	Assuming the name change is approved by the institution, the Department will update its website appropriately and, with the support of the Faculty, engage in rebranding activities, as appropriate.
R2: Develop a profile in the 'literature of marginalized voices'.	The Department declined to implement this recommendation (please see English Response to CCAM, 13 January 2020 and 18-month report, 4 March 2021)	N/A
R3: Articulate its vision and mission in a positive mode.	The Department declined to implement this recommendation (please see English Response to CCAM, 13 January 2020 and 18-month report, 4 March 2021)	N/A
R4: Faculty of Arts to articulate how the Department fits within its vision.	This recommendation was for the Faculty of Arts. English was a full participant in the Faculty's Core Curriculum Review process, helping it to articulate its importance to Arts programs (see English Response to CCAM, 13 January 2020).	N/A
R5: Faculty of Arts to invest in alumni tracking software.	This recommendation was for the Faculty of Arts. I have no update on the Faculty's adoption of alumni tracking. The Department continues to informally maintain its alumni network.	N/A
R6: Develop recruitment drive, with support from Arts.	The Department has not undertaken a recruitment drive, in part because it has yet to complete the renaming and curriculum review that will serve to rebrand the unit. Covid-related financial exigencies also would have made it impossible to invest any resources in such a project in 2021-23.	Recruitment and retention is an on-going priority for the Department and the Faculty at large. There is an opportunity to launch a more focused recruitment drive if the name change is approved, and in conjunction with the launch of a revised curriculum/program, in the next 18-24 months. Such a campaign would require appropriate Faculty support.
R7: Faculty of Arts to return CCE funds to Department to fund recruitment activities.	The Department continues to receive healthy revenues from its share of CCE courses. Among other things, these funds have been used to replenish the Wascana Anthology Fund, which offers travel support	As above, the Department will consider launching a recruitment drive once the name change and program redesign have been completed.

	to students. In Fall 2023, the Department increased the amount of per student travel funding available to \$750 per academic year.	
R8: Expand online offerings, including online Certificate in Creative Writing.	ENGL100, a critical course university-wide, was redeveloped for web delivery in 2023 and the new version was launched in 2024. A new course, ENGL152 (Intro. to Creative Writing), was developed for online delivery and first offered in 2019. This course was to be included in a prospective Certificate in Creative Writing. The Department has had preliminary discussions on the creation of one or two creative writing certificate programs, but this work has been paused for the time being.	The Department will continue to offer a number of flexible delivery options (online, remote, hyflex) for courses including ENGL100, 110, 152, and select 300 and 400/800 level courses. There is general support for a Certificate in Creative Writing, but the Department is focused on completing the curriculum review process before it considers creating new programs.
R9: Collaborate with Arts@Work internship program.	The Department has consistently encouraged participation in the internship program. Since 2019, 5 English majors have completed an Arts@Work placement.	The Department will continue to promote Arts@Work for English majors.
R10: Faculty to support the Department's Pro-Seminar series.	The Pro-Seminar series was put on hold in 2019 because of a lack of resources.	There are no current plans to revive this series.
R11: Review the use of TAs to better support instructors.	TA mentorship and training fall under the purview of the Coordinator of First Year English (COFYE) position, which was revived with new terms of reference in 2022. TAs play an integral role in supporting the Department's teaching mission, both as Writing Centre tutors and instructor-assigned assistants.	While no major change has been made to the types of tasks TAs are permitted to assist with, the COFYE continues to provide mentorship and training to ensure that TAs can contribute to the teaching mission of the Department.
R12: Retire the term 'sessional' from the website.	The Department declined to implement this recommendation (please see English Response to CCAM, 13 January 2020 and 18-month report, 4 March 2021).	N/A
R13: End the removal of sessionals from their offices at end of summer.	Returning sessional instructors are not required to empty their offices at the end of the academic year.	N/A
R14: Review the use of TAs (see R11).	See R11.	See R11.
R15: Initiate review of ENGL100.	A review was conducted by the Undergraduate Committee, which produced a report with a number	ENGL100 is the subject of on-going conversations in the Department. A proposal to revise language on the nature

	of recommendations (attached). A number of these have been implemented, with the notable exception of reducing enrolment caps to 25 and the adoption of prerequisites/placement tests for ENGL100.	and number of assignments will soon be presented to colleagues at a Department meeting.
R16: University to convene round-table on Ethical Writing.	This is within the University's purview.	The Department would certainly support such an initiative, especially in light of the growing problem of AI-assisted plagiarism.
R17: Review the senior curriculum.	Since the Department's last formal update (28 June 2022), a curriculum review report was produced (attached). Some further work was done in 2022 and early 2023, but this particular path for curriculum renewal was abandoned with the resignation of the Department Head. A new process was launched in Spring 2023, with an emphasis on consensus-building. An ad hoc subcommittee on Streaming Options has done considerable information gathering and analysis over the last several months and presented some models for streamlining the curriculum at a December 2023 half-day retreat. The proposed models adopt a more flexible, thematic approach to course offerings, and a restructured set of year-by-year requirements.	The ad hoc subcommittee on Streaming Options, based on feedback received at the December 2023 meeting, will soon be presenting revised options for the consideration of the Department as a whole. We expect this work to lead to concrete program changes in the next 6 months.
R18: Create a streamlined curriculum with clear learning outcomes at each level, core courses meeting these, and special topics courses.	See R17.	See R17.
R19: Foster team teaching and cross-unit cooperation.	There have been preliminary discussions with Media, Art, and Performance around the creation of a Certificate of Interdisciplinary Creative Writing and a Minor in Writing for Stage, Screen, and Media. These projects were shelved during the pandemic emergency and the financial exigencies arising from it.	The Department is focused on the curriculum review and renewal process in the near term. Once this process is complete, it may consider reviving proposals for an interdisciplinary certificate or minor.

R20: Create high-enrolment courses on popular topics.	The member responsible for teaching the topics identified as promising for this type of course (the work of George R.R. Martin, J.K. Rowling) has left the department. There has been no recent discussion of offering this type of high-enrolment course.	N/A
R21: Consider how to decolonize course materials and instruction.	Since the arrival of the CRC in Indigenous Literature, the Department has expanded the range of Indigenous-focused courses. ENGL100 now has a requirement for an Indigenous literature component.	A future hire in Indigenous Literatures, Cultures, and Theories (see below) would enhance the Department's capacity for further decolonizing its program.
R22: Reinstate the joint BA/Bed program.	Please see 18-month report, 4 March 2021.	There is support in principle for this, but other important tasks (curriculum review and renewal) have taken precedence.
R23: Implement a project-based MA.	Completed in 2020. Since this time, 4 students have been admitted into the project-based stream.	The project-based route continues to provide an attractive option for MA students.
R24: Next hire should focus on cross-fertilization with other units.	In 2023, the Department welcomed a cross-appointed Postdoctoral Fellow (Geography and English). The postdoc has presented a public talk and will be teaching two courses for English over her 2-year position.	In December 2023, English submitted a multi-year faculty complement request with a focus on the following areas: the long 19 <sup>th</sup> Century; Creative Writing; Black, Asian, or South Asian Literature; and Indigenous Literatures, Cultures, and Theories. There is much room within these broadly defined areas to hire colleagues with interdisciplinary expertise that could be leveraged into collaborations with other units.
R25: Review governance structure to enhance participation, especially by Federated College members and sessional instructors.	Please see 18-month report, 4 March 2021.	N/A
R26: Rename Department Assistant position and involve in department rebranding.	It is not within the Department's purview to rename the administrative support position.	N/A
R27: Appoint a Coordinator of First Year English.	The terms of reference for the COFYE English position were revised in Fall 2021 and the position reinstated in Winter 2022. The COFYE provides mentorship to first-year instructors, serves as the TA coordinator, and organizes a series of pedagogical talks for the Department. This has become a key support for the delivery of the first year program.	The Department has committed to reviewing the terms of reference for the COFYE after 3 years (in 2025).