

Dr. Alex Oehler, Acting Head
Department of Anthropology

Dear Dr. Oehler

March 31, 2026

Re: Department's 5-year Report and Response to AUR Recommendations at CCAM

Thank you for providing CCAM with your Department's written 5-year report and thoughtful responses on your progress in implementing the recommendations of the External Reviewer's Report and CCAM's follow-up comments on the five outstanding recommendations.

On behalf of CCAM, we congratulate you and your department members on your accomplishments in achieving the initiatives you undertook over the past five years. We also thank you for outlining your Department's vision, future aspirations, and long-term planning, including articulating future goals and initiatives to help actualize that future.

Considering the broader institutional austerity context, CCAM recognized the budgetary challenges faced by your Department and acknowledged that, without additional resources, the delivery of your program can be constrained. CCAM further appreciates your ongoing commitment to developing your North American focus and collaboration with federated colleges and Indigenous Communities in Canada, including your commitment to your departmental community, future research, and interdisciplinary initiatives over the next three to five years. CCAM respectfully encourages you to discuss departmental budget concerns and possible solutions with your Dean.

Regarding your request for CCAM to clarify the 'weight' of the review process and its recommendations: From CCAM's perspective, the 'weight' of the AUR process and its recommendations, on the one hand, lies in the opportunity it provides for self-review by the academic units. On the other hand, at a more fundamental level, the weight of the review process and the resulting recommendations is grounded in the valuable information and insights derived from peer-review and peer-feedback processes which can serve as a foundation to inform and guide innovation and improvement in academic programming, including stimulating new program development, revisioning, and potential collaborative initiatives with other units.

On behalf of CCAM, we wish you and your department members all the best with your future aspirations, goals and initiatives.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Arries-Kleyenstuber'.

Dr. Ebin Arries-Kleyenstuber
Chair, CCAM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'David Gregory'.

Dr. David Gregory,
Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)