

Academic Quality Assurance Committee: 2017 Report to GFC

For the Period July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Committee Background

The Academic Quality Assurance Committee (AQAC) is responsible for the “coordination and facilitation of systematic reviews” (General Faculties Council, 1987, p. 1) of the quality of academic and academic support units. Membership of AQAC for the period was:

- Alan Siaroff (Chair)
- Mirela Ambeskovic
- Leanne Elias
- Harold Jansen
- Chris Nicol
- Sandeep Parmar / Imogen Pohl
- Daniela Sirbu
- Peter Visentin
- Ying Zheng
- Belinda Spiteri (Secretary)
- Paul Sparrow-Clarke (Resource)

Meeting Dates

AQAC met on the following dates:

- September 26, 2017
- November 28, 2017
- January 26, 2018
- March 16, 2018
- April 27, 2018
- June 22, 2018

Orientation Session

Members of AQAC developed and ran an orientation on the quality assurance process for those beginning a review. This orientation session took place on September 22, 2017.

Completed Reviews

The following reviews were closed for the period, with calendar year closed in brackets:

- Master of Education (2017)
- Department of Anthropology (2018)
- Department of Biological Sciences (2018)
- Archaeology (2018)
- Department of Women and Gender Studies (2018)

Summaries of the findings of these reviews are available at: <http://www.uleth.ca/quality/outcomes>.

Current Reviews

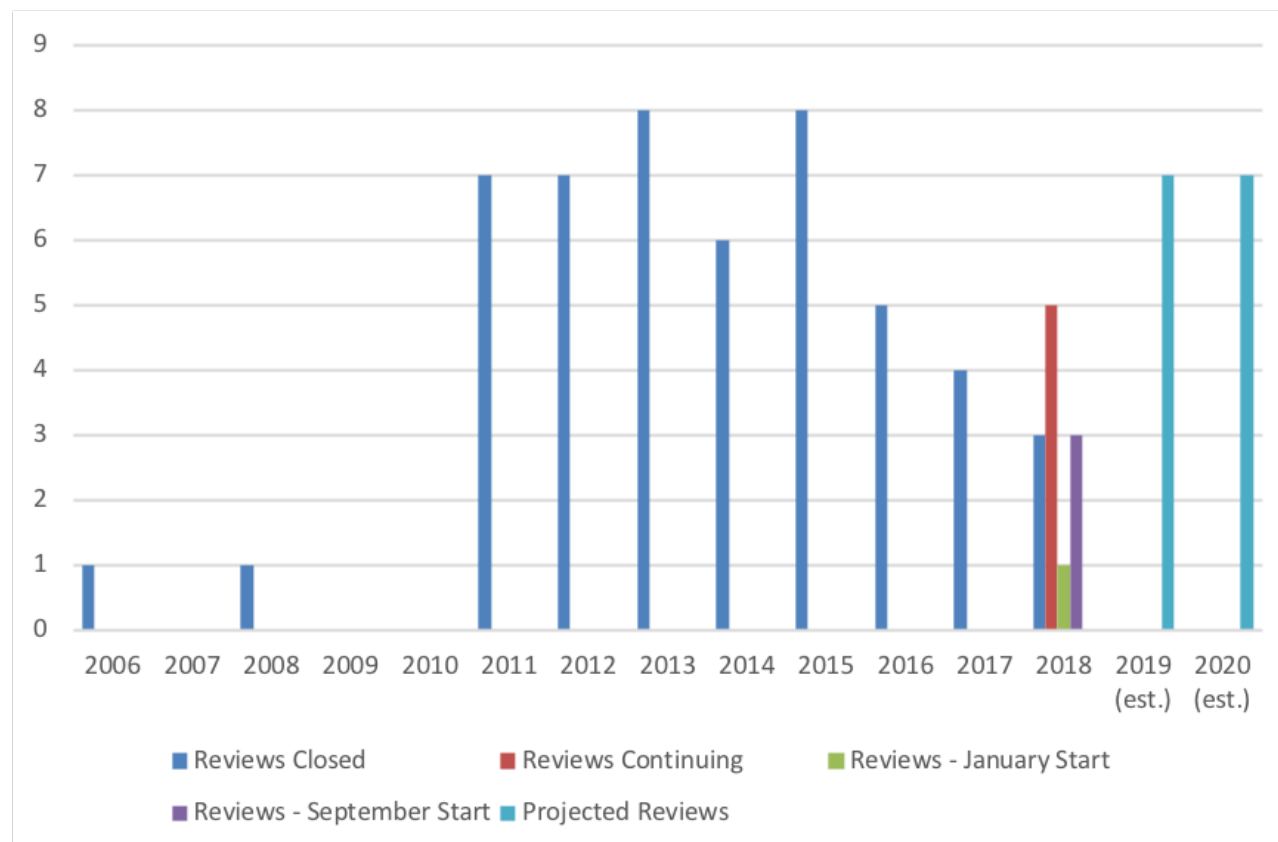
The following reviews are under way (with review start dates):

- Department of Psychology (January 2014)
- Department of Sociology (September 2017)
- BFA Multidisciplinary (September 2017)
- Core Curriculum and Integrated Management Experience (September 2017)
- Prentice Institute (January 2018)

Three additional reviews will begin in September 2018: PhD program; B.Sc. Agricultural Biotechnology, B.A. / B.Sc. Agricultural Studies, B.Sc. Environmental Science; and Academic Writing Program. The Academic Writing Program review was originally started in September 2017. On February 8, 2018, AQAC received a request from the Dean of Arts and Science to delay the Academic Writing review until Fall 2018. AQAC approved this request.

Future Reviews

AQAC has established a cycle of regular reviews, which is available at <http://www.uleth.ca/quality/qa-2020>.



Reviews of the Process

The period 2017-18 saw two reviews of the U of L's quality assurance process:

1. **Internal process review**—The U of L's Academic Quality Assurance Policy includes a provision that it be reviewed once every five years (or as directed). The second process review concluded in November 2017. The U of L's process review incorporates a site visit and report by experts external to the U of L.
2. **CAQC-CARI Quality Assurance Process Audit**—As part of the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) audit process for reviewing the quality assurance processes of the CARIs, AQAC developed a self study report and then CAQC sent an audit team to conduct a site visit on April 18 to 19, 2018. The site visit produced an audit team report, to which the U of L has responded.

The action plan from the 2017 U of L process review had 25 recommendations. An additional seven recommendations from the CAQC-CARI audit were incorporated into the action plan, to make a total of 32 recommendations. Eight of these recommendations have been addressed, with the remainder in the process of being implemented.