Global Development Studies Program Review

Faculty of Arts

Dean's Summary

Submitted by:
Dr. Jacqueline Nolte, Dean of the College of Arts

Accepted by:
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March 2020 Dean's Summary of the Global Development Studies (GDS) Program Review

Dr. Jacqueline Nolte, April 7, 2020

The GDS Program Review took place in 2019, the first time a review has taken place since the inception of the GDS degree in 2013 and since the introduction of a GDS minor and extended minor in 2018. GDS currently has 46 students registered in its programs and GDS graduates have been amongst the finest academic citizens that UFV graduates.

The reviewers commented positively on the overall quality of the GDS program, noting its attractiveness to students, and suggested that with "modest investment" the program could grow substantially. The Program Reviewers commended faculty who teach into the program, particularly those who offer the practicum component.

The focus of the review could have dealt more with the substance of curriculum content. Instead, the challenges of administering an interdisciplinary program overshadowed the former, notwithstanding the interrelationship of the issues. The Dean's Office has since made the recommended investments in the program, including a substantial investment in a full-time hire.

Recommendation 1
Conduct curriculum mapping to identify learning outcomes specific to the GDS program review.

Action
This is overdue and will be completed by the GDS curriculum committee, led by the GDS Chair, by the end of 2021, inclusive of the development of new GDS courses and streamlining the overall program.

Recommendation 2
Clarify the scope of "global development studies" at UFV, create a structure of required core courses at each level of the program and support the program in the scheduling of core courses offered by other departments.

Action
GDS will develop a scope and purpose statement by the end of 2020. The curriculum committee will be asked by the Dean to compare its core courses to other GDS programs to identify gaps. The Chair will be asked to work with heads in other areas to ensure the scheduling of required courses and to alert the Dean to instances where responses from cognate disciplines have not been satisfactory.

Recommendation 3
Streamline required non-GDS course requirements to ensure they make a substantial contribution to the program's learning outcomes while at the same time ensuring students have sufficient choice of electives to complete their programs in a timely way.

Action
The Associate Dean of Students will be asked to guide the Chair with regard to the above recommendation.

The Chair will collaborate with fellow heads to offer required courses, and will report the results of this collaboration to the Dean's office in a timely manner, including instances where collaboration has been unsuccessful. The GDS Chair has requested that the Dean ask departments to report periodically on their contributions to multidisciplinary programs, which will be done.

Recommendation 4: Develop standard guidelines for internship and practicum requirements.

Action
A Practicum Coordinator has been hired in the College of Arts. The Chair will be advised to invite the Practicum Coordinator to a curriculum committee so that these guidelines are developed.

Recommendation 5
Require that students see an academic advisor early in the program.

Action
The Chair will discuss with UFV Advising the best way of ensuring that this happen and will work toward completing this by the end of 2021.

Recommendation 6
Strengthen the GDS program committee and ensure it has ongoing responsibility for academic oversight of GDS courses and the GDS program.

Action
The Dean's office will work with GDS to strengthen the role of the GDS program committee in having academic oversight of GDS courses and the GDS program.

Recommendation 7
Include the Program Chair of GDS in meetings in the College of Arts.

Action
This is an error on the part of the reviewers. The chair has equal voice at all heads and chair meetings with the Dean.

Recommendation 8:
Establish GDS as a stand-alone department with core GDS members, core funding for required courses, associate GDS faculty appointed from other departments and requisite administrative support. If this is not possible, reviewers noted that the proposed School of Global Development and Social Justice be formed but with a Director drawn from GDS given that GDS would be the largest of the interdisciplinary programs in the school.

Action
The Dean is not in support of a small stand-alone department with one core GDS member and two cross appointed members. Arts is moving in the opposite direction of a profusion of small departments. Arguments that GDS requires a specific or fixed "allocation" of courses are based on a model of allocation that fell out of use many years ago, when the university adopted a shared revenue model. Courses are now allocated where demand exists i.e. there is not a set allocation of courses per subject area. GDS does enjoy dedicated administrative assistance and the hiring of a new core GDS faculty member has been completed.

The current two cross appointed GDS faculty who teach core GDS courses have concerns about moving into a new school as they believe that if many of the disciplines GDS draws on are placed in a different school, this could exacerbate problems of course availability. The GDS Program Chair's preference is that GDS hire its own faculty or faculty be cross appointed to GDS so that the program can offer its own courses. This would require the transfer of courses (some cross-listed) and associated budget from the current home departments to GDS. The Chair and Dean will work together to explore where transfer of ownership of cross-listed courses to GDS can take place, contingent on the owning department's need to retain ownership due to the courses being core requirements in their programs. The Dean believes that the former can occur, regardless of whether a school is formed or not and, if transfer of course ownership occurs in some instances, then these courses can be scheduled by the Program Chair as required. The issue regarding faculty is in process already, with the two current faculty members being cross-appointed and a new faculty member having been hired.

Recommendation 9

Appoint an additional core GDS faculty member

Action
Done

Recommendation 10
Develop faculty led protocols for efficient scheduling of courses across departments and programs.

Action
The Department Chair's role is to exercise initiative with respect to working with other heads and, where this is unsuccessful, to bring forward specific requests to the Dean's office. The Dean's office does not coordinate timetabling for specific programs; however, the Deans office can help when specific issues are brought to the Dean's attention.

Recommendation 11
Improve access to administrative support

Action
GDS now shares a full-time program assistant with PACS.

Recommendation 12:
Ensure that GDS benefits from the same institutional supports as disciplinary programs, including the annual production of a data book for GDS.

Action
The Chair will request this from IR.