

**Responses and actions
to the Recommendations of the Review Panel**

**Historical Studies Programme
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland**

February 2006

Recommendation 1: That every effort be made to sustain the Historical Studies Programme [the Unit] that has been developed over the past eight years and, to that end, ensure that future hires support the programme's comprehensive chronological approach to Western Civilization.

Comment: The Unit unanimously agrees.

Action: Members of the Unit will continue to plan and develop the Historical Studies programme in such a way that its future growth, both in staffing and in course development, and build on the programme's present approach.

Responsibility: Programme Unit; Head of Division; Senior Administration

Recommendation 2: That a bridging appointment, ideally beyond the early level of assistant professor be hired in 2006.

Comment: The Unit unanimously agrees.

Action: A request for a bridging appointment for 2006-07 has been made. .

Responsibility: Head of Division; Senior Administration

Recommendation 3: That, since it is critical to the delivery of the Historical Studies programme, sabbatical replacements be the norm rather than the exception.

Comment: The Unit unanimously agrees. We have endeavoured for the past ten years, without success, to secure sabbatical replacements. We shall continue to do so. Fulfilling this recommendation is one which the unit deems essential in not only providing pedagogical continuity but also to bring in new faculty with fresh ideas who might attract majors and minors to the discipline.

Action: The Unit will continue to request sabbatical replacements.

Responsibility: Head of Division; Senior Administration; Senior University Administration

Recommendation 4: That the range of course offerings in Historical Studies be enhanced by the addition of cross-listed courses.

Comment: The Unit unanimously agrees.

Action: The Unit will continue to explore and develop cross-listed courses within the range and limits of what is possible in a small campus such as ours.

Responsibility: The Unit chair will continue to approach other programme chairs and individual faculty to discuss the idea of developing common courses, as has

been done informally in the past.

Recommendation 5: That the programme's faculty pursue opportunities for joint appointments with other programmes in the College.

Comment: The Unit unanimously agrees. We have a well-established record of cross-listed courses, and feels that a joint appointment would be a logical extension of this tradition of inter-disciplinary cooperation.

Action: Current advertising for the requested bridge appointment emphasizes opportunities of inter-programme teaching.

Responsibility: The Unit chair will open discussion with other programmes to consider potential for shared appointments; Head of Division; Senior Administration; Senior Administration

Recommendation 6: That, in future hiring, serious consideration continue to be given to issues of gender balance and diversity.

Comment: The Unit is in full agreement with this recommendation, that gender balance and diversity are important considerations. However, opportunities for hiring have been minimal over the course of the previous sixteen years, in fact, since Rainer Baehre was hired in a tenure-track position, with the exception of two sabbatical replacements. One of these replacements was male, and the other, female. Prior to that time, the "department" (pre-programme) had a good record of gender balance.

Action: Provided candidates meet the essential criteria in teaching and research, we will strive towards gender balance and diversity in all future hirings.

Responsibility: Unit Search Committee; Head of Division; Senior Administration; Senior Administration

Recommendation 7: That the faculty in Historical Studies explore the possibility of a special minor in history that encompasses cross-listed sources.

Comment: The members of the Unit agree. Provision already exists in the MUN Calendar for an open major/minor and we therefore believe that this recommendation can be satisfied now. If a student wants to declare an open major/minor, then they already can do so.

Action: The possibility exists of creating a special minor which would be tailored to students whose major is another discipline (e.g., Visual Arts, Humanities, Social/Cultural Studies, English, Tourism, Education). The Unit is willing to consider this option, if other programme chairs are willing to discuss them. Much would depend on the outcome of Recommendation 2 and 5 above. In the

meantime, the option of an Open Minor will be emphasized in our website.

Responsibility: Unit chair; other programme chairs

Recommendation 8: That financial and other resources be committed to strengthening the linkages with the History department on the St John's campus of Memorial University, including but not confined to guest lecture exchanges and a teaching mentor programme.

Comment: The Unit heartily agrees and this recommendation makes perfect sense. We used to have more funding available for bringing in faculty from the main campus before the Historical Studies programme was launched. There were annual visits, for example, by the chair of the department. Also the CSU provided more funding to individual societies a decade or so ago, which allowed the student history society to bring in visiting academics. This dried up when more programmes and more student societies came into existence at the college. Nevertheless, the unit has managed to bring in the occasional speaker/academic. We have always been strongly in favor of such an arrangement and would like to see it renewed, but it needs funding. The idea of a teaching mentor programme was aired over a decade ago when new programmes were brought into being at SWGC, including Historical Studies. We are entirely open to the idea of bringing in graduate students who would be willing to offer occasional seminars and even serve a teaching internship. Again, this might be a relatively inexpensive way of having specialists come to teach areas not usually covered by the permanent faculty of Historical Studies, thereby contributing to diversity and variety within the programme.

Action: The Unit will continue to discuss this matter and look to the administration for their advice and support in realizing the objectives of this recommendation.

Responsibility: Unit Chair; Head of the History Department (St. John's); Head of Division; and Senior Administration.

Recommendation 9: That plans be developed for the succession of Historical Studies Programme chairs over the next seven-year cycle.

Comment: This is a very good idea, but some practical problems need to be overcome. The existing chair has been in his position now for almost two terms. Dr. Janzen remains Head, Division of Arts. When Dr. Greenlee retires after next year, his replacement would be untenured and perhaps inexperienced. These are considerations in determining how to proceed in fulfilling this recommendation about which there is unanimity within the unit.

Action: This matter has been placed on a future agenda for discussion by the Unit.

Responsibility: Unit chair; Unit members.

Recommendation 10: That, to the extent feasible, a rolling four-year cycle of course offerings be developed beginning in Fall 2005.

Comment: We agree that such a rolling four-year cycle of course offerings is desirable and helpful to majors and minors in planning their programmes. This matter is complicated by the fact that Drs. Greenlee and Parker's impending retirements. Therefore, while this matter has been addressed, its realization remains "in progress."

Action: One faculty member has in fact already instituted such a cycle in his annual teaching schedule. The Unit will endeavour a.s.a.p. to develop such a schedule for all members.

Responsibility: Unit chair; Unit members.

Recommendation 11: That the faculty in the Historical Studies Programme work with the students in the History Society to organize a meet and greet early in the fall term and at least one other programme event in the winter term.

Comment: While such gatherings have occurred informally since 1977, the programme has now "institutionalized" the mixer.

Action: Done. Students and faculty held their first "Mixer" at the end of Winter 2005, with two scheduled for each subsequent semester.

Responsibility: Programme Unit; Student History Society

Recommendation 12: That the Historical Studies faculty, in conjunction with the Associate Vice Principal (Research), explore the potential for research support both within and outside the university.

Comment: The Unit agrees. We do have a strong research profile, as evident in our Self Study Report and noted in the Panel Review Report.

Action: On-going and done.

- Dr. Baehre, Unit chair, has been the Arts member on the Research Committee last year and again this year. The role of history and with the college research community has been brought up on a number of occasions with the committee.
- A Research Inventory prepared by the VP Research has been drafted and individual Historical Studies faculty members have been reminded that they can list their areas of expertise and ongoing projects here.
- Applied research resources at SWGC were the main topic of a meeting

held in the summer of 2005 and attended by the Historical Studies programme chair.

- Vice Principal (Research) has been approached and he is quite willing to meet with programme members, either individually or collectively.
- Both Dr. Bowers and Dr. Janzen, as divisional head, have drawn attention to conferences and research opportunities by means of e-mail.
- There are a number of regional, provincial and international initiatives with which SWGC is involved and within which Historical Studies might well play a future role. They include the following:
 - Coracle Fellowships and Roundtables (Ireland-Newfoundland and Labrador). This programme also includes possible faculty and student exchanges.
 - Humber Basin Assessment Project (HBAP). The latter is an initiative under the Centre of Environmental Excellence and includes a module titled Human Use Thorough Time. This proposed project includes a possible historical component.
 - Harris Centre Regional Workshop Regional Workshop in Stephenville, March 29th, 2006 for Stephenville-Port aux Basques and surrounding areas (Economic Zones 9 & 10). This includes possible educational and outreach components involving heritage topics and research.

Responsibility: Programme Chair, in consultation with Assistant Vice Principal (Research) Wade Bowers and Division Head; Unit members

Recommendation 13: That meetings of Historical Studies faculty be held on a regular basis (at least monthly) and that written records be kept of decisions made as well as time-lines and responsibilities for action.

Comment: The Unit agrees. There were many unit meetings last year, though a regular monthly schedule was not established at that time.

Action: There is now a timetable for meetings. The divisional secretary now records the programme minutes. Regular meetings continue to be held.

Responsibility: Unit chair; Unit members

Recommendation 14: That the academic service responsibilities of the Historical Studies Programme, to the extent possible, be equitably distributed among the full-time faculty.

Comment: The Unit agrees.

Action: The effort of the members of the Programme unit to achieve a record of balance in its academic service to its students is on-going. The full nature of

those responsibilities, as they have developed and grown over the past five years, and how they might be distributed among all faculty members of the Historical Studies programme, has yet to be fully determined. Supervision of Hist 4950 students is allocated equitably and with agreement of all Unit members.

Responsibility: Unit chair; Unit members