Faculty Standing Committee on Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness
Annual Report for 2017–2018

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The primary task for the committee this academic year, as in the two previous, has been arranging and performing reviews of several undergraduate academic programs. The reasons for this were stated in the previous year’s annual report, so are not repeated here.

Six programs in four departments were scheduled for reviews:
- The B.A. and A.B. in Classics, in the Department of Classics
- The B.A. in Dance, in the Department of Theatre and Dance
- The B.A. in History, in the Department of History
- The B.A. and B.S. in Mathematics, in the Department of Mathematics

However, it was learnt that the B.A. in Mathematics is about to be discontinued, so that program was not reviewed.

The committee also started planning for the next stage of the program review process: follow-up discussions with program directors, chairs and deans a year or so after each review, to address what actions if any, have been or could be taken in response to the review. It is intended to start this in the Spring of 2019, after first performing another round of reviews in the Fall of 2018.

On the last point, it was also decided to change the review timetable to having programs make their submissions early in Fall and aiming for the committee to complete its reviews in the Fall. This is in response to the tendency of the committee’s review work to drag on till the Spring exam period and beyond, and to the statement by several chairs that the summer is the best time for them to work on review submissions, followed by some time in the early fall for faculty input.

Some small revisions were made to the review process, but (in the opinion of the chair at least) there is more to be done; for example, the current process blurs the intended goal of reviewing major programs with broader issues about departments as a whole. Another problem has been the new and unusual situation of programs receiving requests for a significant and somewhat administrative task from a faculty committee: it might help for there to be a clearer rôle for Academic Affairs in asking programs for their timely participation.

Finally, our thanks to significant help again from ex officio member Divya Bhati, and to Lynn Cherry who this year joined us, representing the Provost as the other ex officio member.