Faculty Standing Committee on Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness
Annual Report for 2018–2019

Ghazi Abuhakema, Brenton LeMesurier (Secretary), Stephen Short, Deborah Socha McGee (Chair), Joshua Minor, Anton Vander Zee, Weishen Wang, Allison Welch, Mark Witte

The primary task for the committee this academic year, as in the two previous, has been arranging and performing reviews several undergraduate academic programs. The reasons for this were stated in previous 2016-2017 annual report, so are not repeated here.

Six programs in four departments were scheduled for reviews:

- B.A. in Arts Management, Program in Arts Management (ART)
- B.A. in Art History and Art, Dept. of Art and Architectural History (ART)
- B.A. in Historic Preservation and Community Planning, Dept. of Art and Architectural History (ART)
- B.A. in English, Dept. of English (HSS)
- B.A. in Philosophy, Dept. of Philosophy (HSS)
- B.A. in German, Dept. of German and Russian Studies (LCA)

In spite of multiple attempts to acquire the needed documents, beginning in the summer of 2018, none of the three ART programs had submitted the required documents for review, at the time of this report. As a result, only English, Philosophy, and German were reviewed this year.

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 was intended to start this process in the Spring of 2019, after first performing another round of reviews in the Fall of 2018. Unfortunately, due to a couple of committee changes and the missing documentation, the reviews of the programs carried well into Spring semester, so, follow-up discussions were put on hold until next year. Some small revisions were made to the review process, but (in the opinion of the previous two chairs, 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 administrative task from
a faculty committee: it might help for there to be a clearer role for Academic Affairs in asking programs for their timely participation, especially in light of the lack of cooperation of the ART programs this year. Most of the work of the committee is conducted via electronic file sharing and email.

At the end of the Spring semester, it was brought to our attention by Divya Bhati that the description of the committee and the ex officio members on the Senate website no longer matches the current charge of the committee or the titles of the ex-officio members. Upon further examination by Megan Gould, it was discovered that the committee’s declared charge in the FAM does not match the new role of the Committee on Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness. As a result, a charge for next year’s committee is to bring all of the descriptions into alignment with what is actually occurring.

Finally, our thanks for significant help from ex officio member Divya Bhati, and to the Provost’s representative, as the other ex officio member.