

# Academic Quality Assurance Committee: Report to GFC

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*For the Period July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021*

## 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 units and academic support units. Membership of AQAC for the period was:

- Alan Siaroff (Chair)
- Liam Connel
- Craig Coburn
- Lynn Kennedy
- Craig Loewen
- Tracy Oosterbroek
- Aaron Taylor
- Lauren Zink
- Kevin McGeough
- Vicki Grisack (Secretary)
- Nicole Freiheit (Resource)

## Meeting Dates

AQAC met on the following dates:

- September 25, 2020
- October 23, 2020
- November 27, 2020 (email vote)
- February 26, 2021 (email vote)
- March 26, 2021
- June 25, 2021

## Orientation Sessions

AQAC orientation sessions for those beginning a review took place September 21, 2020 and May 14, 2021.

## Completed Reviews

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

- Business – Finance (2020)
- Business – Marketing (2021)

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):

- B.A./B.Sc. Agricultural Studies (September 2018)
- Business – Accounting (September 2019)
- Department of Music, including Digital Audio Arts (September 2019)
- Library (January 2020)
- B.Sc. Environmental Science (March 2020)
- Department of Economics (May 2020)
- Department of Drama (May 2021)
- Pre-Professional Transfer Program in Engineering (May 2021)
- Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics (May 2021)

Five reviews will begin in September 2021:

- Department of History
- Department of Indigenous Studies
- Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Department of Political Science
- Master of Arts

### Progress Reports

AQAC received and reviewed the following progress reports for completed reviews:

- Department of Psychology, one-year report.
- Academic Writing Program, one-year report.
- Human Resources Management and Labour Relations, one-year report.
- Master of Education, three-year report.
- Department of Anthropology, three-year report.
- BFA Multidisciplinary, one-year report.
- Bachelor of Education, one-year report.
- PhD Sciences, one-year report.
- Department of Neuroscience, three-year report.
- Department of Biological Sciences, three-year report.

### Special Mention

- The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected academic quality assurance activities during the 2020-2021 academic year. To give faculty members and units time to develop online courses, and to acknowledge the difficulty of completing the quality assurance process during a pandemic, the government approved the deferral of all Academic Quality Assurance reviews for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.