

Final Assessment Report

MA in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts

(reviewed 2019-21)

A. Summary

1. The Self Study for the Program was considered and approved by the Senate Academic Review Committee on February 4, 2020.
2. The Review Committee consisted of two external reviewers: Ian MacRae (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Gary Kelly (University of Alberta), and one internal reviewer, Fiona Blaikie (Brock University).
3. The virtual review occurred on March 1, 2, 4, 2021.
4. The Reviewers' Report was received on April 15, 2021.
5. The Program response was received on May 13, 2021.
6. The Dean of Graduate Studies response was received on May 20, 2021.
7. The Dean of Humanities response was received on May 27, 2021.
8. The Senate Graduate Studies Committee response was received on Sep 22, 2021.

This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on May 25, 2016.

Program Outcome Categories:

Based on their knowledge of the discipline, the content of the Self-Study and the interviews conducted during the site visit, the Review Committee gave the program the following Outcome Category:

Program(s)	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Good Quality with Concerns	Non-Viable
MA in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts	X			

Executive Summary:

The Reviewers wrote:

History of the Program: When there was a strong Comparative Literature undergraduate program at Brock, a faculty initiative developed an MA program in Comparative Literature and Arts. This assumed elements of Brock's mission and brand in interdisciplinary studies. There was good grounding in both relevant theory and student engagement with University arts units and endeavours. The program benefitted from a provisional and experimental character and committed leadership, but consequently there were no specialist hires, directorship and teaching were on compensated overload, there was insufficient administrative help from dedicated support staff, the program was institutionally untethered, and focus and direction were set by a few enthusiastic faculty of different academic commitments. The program was successful initially but was in time edged into survival mode, likely because of provincial government funding constrictions, the always fluid and local character of comparative literature and interdisciplinary studies, reliance on overload teaching/directorship, inadequate support staffing, shifting emphases and orientation, disposal of a University arts centre of some value to the program, somewhat uncompetitive funding packages for applicants, slight income-supplementing work opportunities especially for international students, diminution of a potentially valuable recruiting source as the undergraduate Comparative Literature program was homed in Modern Languages and declined, and turnover and/or burnout of instructors and Directors. These circumstances converged with a scheduled upcoming external review and the program was put on hold; the Covid pandemic caused further delay.

Present situation and stated prospects: Initiative in reviving the MA in comparative and interdisciplinary studies has been assumed by members of Modern Languages, supported by the Department Chair; applications for a redesigned MA led by this group are now being considered. They envisage a graduate Comparative Literature program for Modern Languages, centred on the developing field of studies in languages and literatures (including indigenous) deemed declining or threatened, but bridging disciplines and faculties (Business Studies and a new CRC in Native Studies were mentioned). An alternative, less sharply focused vision was discernible in remarks by faculty and administrators outside Modern Languages. These suggested a robust program more closely

allied with the existing interdisciplinary humanities PhD, closer to the English Department, and engaged with Indigenous studies, again emphasizing theory, experiential learning, engagement with institutes and programs in the arts (on and off campus). It was reported at second-hand that administration was enjoining a minimum intake of five domestic and two international students for the revived program. Interestingly, Library representatives stated the wish to expand support for this MA, whatever form it takes. No students were available for interview as the program is in suspension.

Assessors' main observations: Faculty leadership and provision has been admirable and even heroic, but the overload method is unsustainable. The program has had successes and there is widespread openness to re-animating the program in some form, perhaps not yet fully determined. Full funding should continue to be offered to successful applicants. The Directing committee should be inclusive, meet regularly, and have clear lines of accountability and reporting. The program should not become overly dependent on a single person or small group in leadership. There was no indication of design to bolster undergraduate Comparative Literature or World Literature as a recruiting source for this MA; potential for recruiting from existing Brock undergraduate programs was mentioned in general terms. Possible collaborations with Fine Arts and Drama and with the Business School were mentioned, though with little detail. Most thought the program should not be a one-person vision that changes with replacement of that person. There must be adequate provision of support-staff time, and provision of larger study/work/social space for program students is highly desirable. There was broad agreement that on-campus and regional material resources are sufficient and could be augmented, including corporate sponsorship, though little detail was provided. Differences between two emergent visions for the program's future should be managed to avoid compromising collegiality and morale, or the program itself.

B. Strengths of the Program

The reviewers noted the following strengths:

SCLA [Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts] is a unique, challenging, innovative and creative program. It is a place in the Faculty of Humanities where risks are taken, and new connections are made, in that each student's work involves an experiment, something new, in extending knowledge beyond traditional and pre-established categories.

In combining studies in Music, the Performing Arts, the Visual Arts, Literature, and critical theory in a single, one-year MA program, it may be unique in the Canadian academy.

The faculty in Studies in Comparative Literature and Arts Masters of Arts is impressive—committed, capable, invested in the program, concerned with its futures. The experience, acumen and institutional memories of these scholars is the program's greatest strength.

Affiliated senior administrators are well-versed in program particulars, outcomes, and histories, having had in many cases direct involvement in conceiving and teaching in SCLA.

There are significant physical resources available at Brock to SCLA faculty and students, including the Marilyn I. Walker Centre for Fine and Performing Arts, the Small Walker Press, the Digital Makers Space.

C. Opportunities for Improvement and Enhancement

Recommendation #1

Revive the program as an MA in interdisciplinary and comparative studies.

The Program responded:

The current direction of SCLA is not at odds with this recommendation. Comparative literatures and arts are a productive interdisciplinary field. As a follow-up to this recommendation, SCLA will act in partnership with the Research Centre for Interdisciplinary Arts and Creative Culture (homed in the Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture, Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts) and will actively develop connections (research, creation, outreach) with this Centre in the next five years.

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee responded:

The reviewers strongly supported the revival of the program as an MA in interdisciplinary and comparative studies. There would appear to be sufficient interest and expertise in this interdisciplinary approach at Brock, and the reviewers praised the 'heroic' commitment of the faculty involved. Inasmuch as it is in the purview of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee to weigh in on a report that includes recommendations about the modification of an existing program or the establishment of a new program in the absence of documentation about consultation with ARC, and given that it is for the stakeholders and administrators of the program to act on recommendations in accordance with university policies in our unionized workplace, our committee accepts this review.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

This recommendation merits consideration, and the Dean strongly encourages the programme to follow up on this. An MA in interdisciplinary studies could have broad scope and appeal across the Humanities.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I strongly support this recommendation however it is imperative that the Unit put together a solid plan for how to move this forward. While partnerships and connections are indeed important for working towards an MA in interdisciplinary and comparative studies, a clear and defined commitment to transform SCLA is needed. This is a critical top priority that is needed to sustain this type of program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to review and make changes to the program in order to revitalize it to be accepted for consideration. Notwithstanding that the reviewers gave the program an outcome category of *Excellent Quality*, the Committee recognizes that the program has been on hiatus for two years and that a transformation is important for its survival, whether as an MA in Interdisciplinary and Comparative Studies or in another form.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #2

Provide flexible and stable leadership and co-ordination with a Director on teaching release, supported by a wide-ranging committee membership of various stakeholders meeting regularly, adequately assisted by dedicated support staff, and clear lines of reporting and accountability.

The Program responded:

The program has used its two no-intake years to develop stable leadership and clear lines of reporting and accountability. The Director of SCLA reports regularly to the Chair of MLLC and the MLLC committee. A report is due at each MLLC meeting.

SCLA agrees that there is an urgent need for dedicated support staff. A conversation on administrative assistance is currently taking place with the Dean of Humanities.

The directorship comes with a 0.5 teaching release and increased PER funds. The committee is composed of both long-term and new members. The SCLA Handbook provides detailed information on the composition of the committee to ensure the presence of a wide-ranging membership. This wide-ranging membership has never been questioned and is actively pursued.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

Teaching release for programme directors is guaranteed by the *Collective Agreement between Brock University and the Brock University Faculty Association*.

The Dean supports the recommendation for a committee with wide-ranging membership, as well as the suggestion for frequent meetings.

Resourcing, such as support staff, is beyond the scope of the current exercise.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

Reporting and accountability fall under the purview of the Dean of Humanities. FGS supports the Dean's efforts and any direction in which they recommend moving.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to provide stable governance and clear lines of reporting and accountability to be accepted. The Committee recognizes that broad stakeholder membership and participation in the program is critical for its future viability. However, ARC understands that resources in terms of a director, faculty and staff are outside of its jurisdiction.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #3

Instruction should be on-load as much as possible.

The Program responded:

This is, of course desirable, but will not change until new appointments are made. MLLC has regularly allowed faculty members to teach in SCLA on load. As of Spring 2019, an MLLC faculty member initially hired to teach in SCLA is deployed yearly in SCLA for a minimum of 0.5 credit on-load. Furthermore, MLLC arranges for at least one other MLLC member to also teach on load every year in SCLA.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

Response to this recommendation depends, to an extent, on the actions taken in response to Recommendations 1 and 2. With a broader membership and participation in the programme, the impact of teaching within the programme can be diffused across different units in the Faculty of Humanities and beyond.

While resourcing is beyond the scope of the current exercise, it should be noted that the stipends provided for this programme and any other interdisciplinary programmes can be used either for faculty members to teach on overload, or to “buy out” teaching in their home units so that teaching in interdisciplinary programmes can indeed be on load.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

From what I understand after reading the Reviewers’ report, the idea is that SCLA should consider broadening to an MA in Interdisciplinary and Comparative Studies. This would then increase the potential for additional course offerings and faculty support from beyond MLLC. However, workload and teaching assignments fall outside of FGS.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as workload lies outside of its jurisdiction and has implications with respect to Collective Agreements.

Implementation Plan

Not accepted.

Recommendation #4

Develop a robust recruiting plan, with local, national, and international scope and records, sustained by dedicated support staff.

The Program responded:

This seems key to the program's survival. The University bears this responsibility and needs to develop new and appealing strategies. The Director of SCLA recruits at Brock and beyond, and works closely with the Graduate Office throughout the year. More involvement at the undergraduate level by the Recruitment Office would be welcome. Post-pandemic, there will be potential to further develop recruitment among MLLC students.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports the development of a recruitment plan that sees the programme working in partnership with the Faculty of Graduate Studies. For graduate programmes, the work of the participating faculty members and of current and former students constitutes the best advertisement and recruitment tool.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

While the University does indeed have a responsibility for the overall brand and marketing of the institution, it falls to the Unit to develop and create appealing programming that attracts students. FGS is dedicated to supporting all graduate programs in the development of marketing and recruitment strategies, but this needs to be driven by the Unit.

I strongly support the recommendation of the Reviewers that, "Securing notice and interest from top prospects requires a well articulated, continuously managed and updated plan led by the director and program committee and sustained year on year by an experienced and committed support staff person. There should be constant expansion of a network based on personal, academic, and professional connections of program students, program alumni/ae, and faculty and others in the University. The program's interdisciplinary character may make it unamenable to traditional typologies of disciplinary study, requiring more energetic recruiting strategies." I further encourage the program to develop a plan.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee recognizes that the Program Director and Committee are responsible for developing a broad-based recruiting plan in partnership with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Recruitment, Marketing and Communications, and other institutional resources.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #5

Enunciate a clear, focused, flexible interdisciplinary and comparatist program mandate, with illustrative examples of possible qualifying undergraduate degrees, programs and projects for potential students, full-and part-time options, recorded and potential career outcomes, funding opportunities, and evolving annotated roster of participating faculty, institutes, units, resources, and sponsors.

The Program responded:

A mandate addressing the above points already exists, to which the partnership with the Research Centre in Interdisciplinary Arts and Creative Culture will be added. The updated mandate will be posted on the SCLA website.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The response to this recommendation depends on the actions taken in response to Recommendations 1 and 2. If the recommendation to revive the programme as an MA in interdisciplinary studies, then this is a good opportunity to develop a programme mandate and provide examples of possible trajectories for entry to and work within the programme. A document that lays out enrolment options and funding opportunities, past and potential career or future educational outcomes, and a roster of participating faculty and their research expertise, could be very useful in the recruitment plan noted in Recommendation 4.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

Again, it seems that the Unit is missing the point of the reviews and recommendations. With a shift to interdisciplinary program as suggested in Recommendation #1, then an updated program mandate will be critical for attracting top students with appropriate qualifications.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee understands the reviewers to be referring to a mandate which will reflect the new priorities of the revitalized program under consideration, per recommendation #1. ARC expects that a mandate which addresses the many criteria listed in the recommendation would be a powerful recruiting tool as well.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #6

Establish an active, well curated, and student-centred social media presence.

The Program responded:

This initiative requires further institutional support in the form of administrative help and will be possible once the program operates again after two no-intake years.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports this recommendation.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that the Program will work with existing institutional resources to move forward with this recommendation.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.

Recommendation #7

Establish collaborative and consultative relationships with similar programs and institutions regionally, nationally, and internationally.

The Program responded:

This is a plan SCLA has already committed to as soon as the program operates again.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports this recommendation.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.

Recommendation #8

Prioritize and enunciate policy of Equity, Diversity, Indigenization, and Decolonization in all aspects of the program.

The Program responded:

SCLA will enunciate such policy in 2021-2022. It will appear in the Handbook as well as on the website. In MLLC, French Studies has requested a tenure-track position in Francophone Indigenous literature. Such recruitment would be an asset in SCLA.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports this recommendation, and encourages the programme to look across the Faculty of Humanities for supports in this endeavour.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation. The Unit has an opportunity to look beyond MLLC in its effort to devise such a policy.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #9

Implement community service learning, experiential learning, and internship component, with faculty mentorship, for use where appropriate in a student's or a cohort's program.

The Program responded:

SCLA has provided experiential learning since its inception and will continue to do so. As the Rodman Hall Art Centre no longer exists, some experiential learning activities will need to be adapted. The most professional solution would be for the University to offer solutions of equal quality in the visual arts to compensate for this loss.

Students may also gain experiential learning and perform community service in the Research Centre in Interdisciplinary Arts and Creative Culture by participating in its creative and outreach projects.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports this recommendation, and encourages the programme to consider a broad range of available opportunities for service and experiential learning.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation, but I strongly encourage the Unit to think about how to implement this recommendation using existing resources. A longer term vision around existing University and Community resources will help to strengthen the program and the student experience.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee encourages the Program to consider further opportunities to include experiential components in the curriculum, working with existing institutional resources. ARC expects that the Program is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to move forward on this issue.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.

Recommendation #10

Where appropriate, use team-teaching curated and coordinated by a course director.

The Program responded:

From the very beginning until now, SCLA has offered at least one team-taught course a year. This practice will continue. Team-teaching depends on the availability and ongoing commitment of individual faculty members and on the options made available by the University to compensate for contributions.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports this recommendation.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #11

Provide opportunities for the program’s cohorts and membership to engage socially with each other, develop an esprit de corps, and organize program-related events.

The Program responded:

Such activities have always existed in SCLA, but of course stopped during the two no-intake years. They are set to resume with the next cohort.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports this recommendation.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #12

Language requirements should be adapted to the student's program.

The Program responded:

SCLA has always adapted its language requirement to students' needs and skills. As described in the Handbook, students may either demonstrate the successful completion of a first-year language course at university level or take a reading test. This is done in agreement with language requirements practiced in MLLC. As a follow-up to this recommendation, the SCLA committee has provided clarifications in the Handbook: all languages (not just colonial languages) may fulfill the language requirement. Students whose first language is not English are not required to demonstrate the completion of a language course or take a test.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports this recommendation, and notes that it does indeed articulate current practice.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation and practice.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be current practice.

Implementation Plan
No further action required.

Recommendation #13

Rename SCLA

The Program responded:

As a follow-up to this recommendation, SCLA has agreed to rename “Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts” as follows: “Comparative Literatures and Arts.” This change will be formalized for the next GPC.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

Response to this recommendation hinges upon the response to Recommendation 1. Once the conversation around a possible new incarnation of the programme is complete, the name of that programme should be given careful consideration.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

I support this recommendation, and strongly encourage the program to consider a change in name that aligns with Recommendation #1. That is, consider a name change once sufficient revamping/revitalization of the program has taken place.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that consideration of a name change is dependent on the implementation of recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #14

Develop Areas of Specialization

The Program responded:

This is in principle a good idea. However, its realization depends on staffing, budget, and student recruitment.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

This, too, depends in part on the response to Recommendation 1, and recommendation 2 is relevant here, too. The attraction of additional programme and committee members from the Faculty of Humanities and beyond could bring about natural “clusters” of faculty research interests that could guide the development of areas of specialization.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

Again, this recommendation is dependent on expanding the breadth of the program (see Recommendation #1). I think this is an opportunity to explore how to increase offerings by incorporating more faculty members across the Faculty of Humanities.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that the development of areas of specialization is dependent on the implementation of recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #15

Administrative Affiliation and a Diploma in SCLA

The Program responded:

SCLA’s administrative affiliation is unambiguously in MLLC. The current Chair of MLLC is a member of the SCLA committee. To anchor the current situation, the SCLA handbook has added that the Chair of MLLC be a member of the Program Committee.

SCLA will work toward the creation of a diploma for graduate students who are not enrolled in SCLA.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Reviewers’ recommendation that SCLA pursue “administrative and pedagogical affiliation with and feed into the Interdisciplinary PhD program in Humanities” is worth consideration, as there seems to be a natural fit between the two programmes (especially in light of possible responses to Recommendation 1).

A graduate diploma that could be offered to students in other graduate programmes, to provide breadth to their experience, is also worthy of consideration.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

This is an interesting recommendation. Some more clear affiliation (and mandate) would help to align with and feed students into the PhD.

The creation of a diploma is also an excellent suggestion to expand offerings to students outside of the SCLA program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands the recommendation to be referring to administrative and pedagogical affiliation with the PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities and the option for a Diploma for students in other graduate programs.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.

Recommendation #16

Curriculum Renewal

The Program responded:

This is an ongoing process that SCLA has pursued during its two no-intake years, and one that will continue.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

This is another recommendation the response to which could hinge on the response to Recommendation 1, and, to a lesser extent, 14. As the programme considers what it wants to look like in the future, a revision and renewal of the curriculum would be appropriate. The Reviewers provided some examples of possible directions to consider, such as more cross listing with other graduate programmes, and adding a coursework only stream. I support consideration of this recommendation.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

This recommendation should be more clearly addressed by the Unit. The recommendation includes the possibility of a course-based stream as well as cross-listing of courses from other Faculty of Humanities programs. These are actionable recommendations.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that curriculum review and renewal will be a central consideration during the revitalization process of the program. ARC considers the recommendation to be dependent on the implementation of recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Recommendation #17

Make 5P01 a 'credit / non-credit' course

The Program responded:

This option already exists in the SCLA Handbook and will be reaffirmed in the Fall when SCLA 5P01 is offered again to make sure that students enrolled in the course are aware of this option.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

This recommendation seems to reflect current practice.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

The content of courses falls outside of FGS' purview.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be current practice.

Implementation Plan
No action required.

Recommendation #18

Consider a retreat

The Program responded:

The current SCLA committee is a strong team with a common goal and works in a collegial, effective manner. There is no need of a mediator as there are no conflicts.

The Dean of Humanities responded:

The Dean supports the recommendation that the programme committee and participating faculty hold a retreat, when public health considerations make this possible. Having a space and a period of time to consider the big questions of the programme can be beneficial. Sometimes having a facilitator present to help guide discussions and visioning exercises can be helpful, and if the programme chose to pursue this the Dean would try to find some financial support.

The Dean of Graduate Studies responded:

While this falls outside of FGS’ purview, I do not see why consideration for a retreat to discuss various aspects of the program recommendations would be rejected by the Unit. I support this recommendation.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that gathering the stakeholders of the program together for a retreat would be beneficial to the future of the program.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

D. Summary of Recommendations:

First Priority:

Recommendations 1,2,4,5,8,10,11,13,14,16,18

Second Priority:

Recommendations 6,7,9,15

Not Accepted:

Recommendation 3

No Action Required (Current Practice):

Recommendations 12, 17