



Date: August 18, 2023
From: Senate Committee on Continuing Studies
Re: **2022/23 Annual Report**

The Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies define its scope and relationship with Senate and other Senate committees. Annually in October, the committee presents a report to Senate on its business and proceedings over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Continuing Studies met four times during the academic year: October 19, 2022, November 18, 2022, February 7, 2023 and March 14, 2023. All meetings were held remotely. The committee reviewed a number of academic programs and considered other issues over the course of the year, including:

- changes to the committee's terms of reference;
- the review of three diploma/certificate programs with approvals for the continued delivery for the next five years of: Ecological Restoration Professional Specialization Certificate, Environmental and Occupational Health Certificate and Public Relations Diploma
- approval to reduce elective credits from 13.5 to 10.5 in the Canadian Studies Diploma
- approval of one new program: Certificate in Transformative Climate Action

Bullets of Major Issues:

- **Terms of reference (October 19, 2022)**

The committee discussed and approved proposed changes to the terms of reference, which include: i) extending the review period for Senate-approved programs from three to five years; ii) reducing the total student representatives on the committee from four to three; iii) adding in a statement to advise Continuing Studies on academic issues as required and; iv) minor edits.

- **Ecological Restoration Professional Specialization Certificate (October 19, 2022)**

Miranda Angus, Director and Tusa Shea, Coordinator joined the meeting to present their report and answer questions. This certificate is a specialized program for professionals already working in the field. Even though it is a small program, it does net a positive return and serves an industry need. Expanding international marketing efforts has created more awareness and interest from learners in the United States.



Professional programs like this generally have a higher dormant rate as learners often skip a term or two due to work demands including fieldwork. Many of the courses were redesigned to reflect and incorporate Indigenous knowledge, and this work continues.

The committee approved the continued delivery of the Ecological Restoration Professional Specialization Certificate for another five years.

- **Canadian Studies Diploma revisit (November 18, 2022)**

Miranda Angus, Director joined the meeting to respond to any additional questions following the review of the memo. Further discussion regarding how course options are listed will be taken up with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Curriculum and the Acting AVP Academic Planning and reported back to the committee next meeting.

The committee approved the reduction in elective credits from 13.5 to 10.5 in the Canadian Studies Diploma program and to forward to the Senate Committee on Curriculum for approval.

- **Certificate in Transformative Climate Action (November 18, 2022)**

Miranda Angus, Director and Kara Shaw, Environmental Studies Faculty Advisor joined the meeting to respond to questions about the new proposed Certificate in Transformative Climate Action. This program will equip learners to engage effectively with the social, cultural, and political challenges of developing strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change. It is a multi-disciplinary credit certificate designed in part to replace the Human Dimensions of Climate Change Certificate.

There is great need for a certificate like this that looks primarily at human behaviour, policies, and change. The proposed program includes two climate science electives and there is a plan to build science literacy skills into the curriculum.

There is strong market demand with local, provincial and federal governments for this type of program; it is a skillset people are looking for.

The committee approved the Certificate in Transformative Climate Action and the moving of it forward to the Senate Committee on Planning for approval.

- **Canadian Studies Diploma follow up (February 7, 2023)**

Miranda Angus, Director, advised the committee that she followed-up with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Curriculum and learned that there is no requirement to post a full list of courses in the calendar at this time and this is still in discussion. The division will follow any updated requirements, should this change.

- **Environmental and Occupational Health Certificate (February 7, 2023)**

Laura Vizina, Director, joined the meeting to share a summary of the program's history and additional learner data from the last three years, and to respond to questions. Three important highlights were:

- 1) A number of experienced instructors have stepped away from teaching as a result of the pandemic. In the past 18 months, 16 new instructors were hired and appointed to teach in the program. This has impacted staff workload as new instructors require more support, especially with curriculum revisions.
- 2) Three micro-credentials related to occupational health and safety have been launched as a direct response to BCRSP needs and industry demands.
- 3) Although not part of this review, the team has invested money to promote these micro-credentials in order to capture new professionals.

Following some discussion, the committee approved the continued delivery of the Environmental and Occupational Health Certificate for five (5) years with a report back to Committee within three (3) years regarding admission requirements, micro credentialing and opportunities for international learners and new immigrants.

- **Public Relations Diploma Program (March 14, 2023)**

Laura Vizina, Director and Tatiana Shumilina, Coordinator joined the committee to share some highlights regarding program timeline, current learners and demographics. This program is one of only four holding recognition of the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) in Canada, and the only program running nationally that holds that certification. Following a recent student survey, staff are using results to better position the program and make improvements based on their feedback.

The committee inquired about opportunities for international learners, opportunities for laddering and enrollments. Following discussion the committee approved the continued delivery of the Public Relations Diploma Program for another five (5) years.

Respectfully submitted,

2023-24 Senate Committee on Continuing Studies

Jo-Anne Clarke, (Chair), Division of Continuing Studies
Anaïs Holdaway, Convocation Senator
Doug Magnuson, Faculty of Human and Social Development
Dzifa Dordunoo, President's Nominee
Elizabeth Adjin-Tettey, Chair, Senate Committee on Planning
Helen Kurki, Faculty of Social Sciences
Jeffrey Bruton, GSS Representative
Li-Shih Huang, Faculty of Humanities
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Monica Prendergast, Curriculum and Instruction
Natasha Thambirajah, Alumni Association
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Kirsten Kopp (Secretary), Division of Continuing Studies

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