

Bachelor of Integrated Studies Progress Report

Feb 1, 2024

ACTION ITEMS	STATUS UPDATE
1. Program Stability	
<u>Action 1.</u> The Dean to engage the Arts Studies department about the department hosting the BIS/GSD, effective Sept 1, 2022, including changing the name of the department to “Arts and Integrated Studies”, with financial support as described above.	COMPLETE: The BIS and GSD have been transitioned to the Arts Studies department. The department has been renamed Arts & Integrated Studies (AIS) to better reflect the BIS opportunities. The department coordinator time has been increased, and the BIS and GSD are now explicitly included in enrolment and budget planning.
2. Student Engagement	
<u>Action 2.</u> Arts & Integrated Studies Department to develop a Student Engagement Plan for BIS and GS diploma students in Fall 2022, considering the strategies suggested by the External review team and taking advantage of the collaborative space currently being renovated on the third floor of the D building.	IN PROGRESS: The collaborative space in the renovated 3rd floor of building D is seeing a steady increase in student utilization. Starting in January 2024, AIS will be planning a variety of weekly student engagement events. (i.e., learning game nights, film screening, grad school mentoring info sessions, career planning sessions, student work showcases). Academic Advisors will be invited to participate, contribute to, and host event planning.
3. Assessment of Academic Advisor Capacity	
<u>Action 3.1.</u> That a faculty advisor be seconded for a two-year period to advise students in the BIS/GSD to start in Fall 2022.	COMPLETE: Starting in Fall 2023 an AIS faculty member was appointment for a two-year term as a faculty advisor working in the Academic Advising Centre.
<u>Action 3.2.</u> Faculty advisor and other advisors supporting BIS students to review external team’s suggestions for streamlining and report to Director of Advising and Dean in Fall 2023 with the view of addressing BIS students’ unique advising needs.	IN PROGRESS: As a result of working on this action item it was discovered that the unique advising needs of BIS students require a variety of one-off approvals and substitutions. Work is being done to ensure the BIS is following UFV policies and procedures. A SharePoint system is being developed for use by the BIS advisors so that all approvals and unique requests are documented and processed consistently. This system will be implemented in Feb 2024. An inventory of thematic options has been completed. The aim of this work is to bring a recommendation to IGSPC in spring 2024 that will establish a consistent approach to thematic option approval. This work is being done in consultation with Sarah Graham’s articulation team.

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4. Articulation of the BIS with Indigenous Funding Agencies	
<u>Action 4.</u> For the Dean to explore with the Senior Advisor to Indigenous Affairs and the Vice-Provost reasons for lack of band funding for the BIS and act on any recommendations that they may have to remedy the situation.	ON GOING: Consultation with Xwexwilmexwawt is ongoing. Promotion of the BIS has been done with the Indigenous Academic Success Cohort and AIS Department Head meets with the Director of the Indigenous Student Centre on a regular basis.
5. REVISIONS to the Integrated and General Studies Program Committee (IGSPC)	
<u>Action 5.</u> For the Dean to consult with the IGSPC and the AIS department for the development of Terms of Reference for an External Advisory Committee and a curriculum committee, for implementation in Fall 2022.	COMPLETE: The IGSPC Terms of Reference were updated in 2022 and put into effect for Fall 2023. The committee has returning and new members and meets monthly. The Dean is currently exploring creating a curriculum committee under the AIS department and strategies to gather feedback from employers and community members.
6. Development of BIS-Specific Course Curriculum	
<u>Action 6.1.</u> That discussion take place between the Director and Arts Studies faculty to develop an early-program course, considering current revisions to 398 being done by Arts Studies faculty and potential overlaps with ARTS 299. (Service to the Bachelor of Environmental Studies should be considered as well.) <u>Action 6.2:</u> That discussion take place between the Director and Arts Studies faculty to clarify whether PORT 399 is compatible with a capstone project or whether a capstone course should be added.	COMPLETE: Reflecting on recommendations from the review, substantial consultation work has been done for the BIS. Course revisions for ARTS 299, PORT 398, and PORT 399 have been done. All three courses have been renamed to AIS: Professional Practices. <i>AIS 299 (formerly ARTS 299)– Professional Practices 1</i> (designed for BA students only) <i>AIS 398 (formerly PORT 398)- Professional Practices 1</i> (designed for BIS students – considering the needs of working learners) <i>AIS 399 (formerly PORT 399)- Professional Practices 2</i> (designed for transfer post-university planning and capstone learning) Additional course revisions have been done on AIS 380 and AIS 480 which in turn could serve as a practicum or capstone project course. The new learning outcomes for AIS 399 also provide opportunities for capstone learning as opposed to strictly being about portfolio production. The course revisions will be effective for September 2024. Possibilities for additional BIS program enhancements are being researched. Any major program enhancements are scheduled for Sept 2026 target implementation date.

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7. Discontinued use of PORT 398 as a Program Requirement:	
<u>Action 7.</u> That discussion take place between the Director and Arts Studies faculty to evaluate 398.	IN PROGRESS: The revised AIS courses were approved at UEC in October 2023 and will come into effect in Sept 2024. PORT 398 has been revised as AIS 398.
8. Add Math 123 as an option for fulfilling the 100-level statistics requirement with the caveat that students opting for this be informed about any limitations that it may place on graduate level program options.	
<u>Action 8.</u> That this recommendation be brought to IGSPC, then to UEC for review, as soon as practical.	IN PROGRESS: Consultation regarding numeracy in both the GSD and BIS has been done. Feedback indicates that numeracy remains an important skill, however, statistics as a requirement is being recommended for removal from the program as the only numeracy pathway. In response to concerns about needing stats for graduate level program options – research indicates there is limited evidence to suggest this is a factor. Grad programs with specific statistic course requirements also have explicit allowable major requirements which are not easily fulfilled by a thematic option in the BIS. BIS students will continue to have the option to take stats as an option or take a bridging course once they are accepted into a graduate program. A program change adding MATH 123 as an option was approved by the College of Arts Council January 2024, and will be implemented for Fall 2024.
9. Create a Partnership Coordinator Position: Action: No explicit recommendation made	COMPLETE: An academic support faculty position has been created to serve both the BIS and College of Arts programs. This position is the External Liaison Coordinator, College of Arts.

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10. Expand Experiential Learning Opportunities:	
Action 10.1: Director to explore with the Director of CECE creation/expansion of co-op opportunities for BIS students.	ON GOING: CECE and the College of Arts are working to identify how CECE can better support the BIS. The College of Arts has suggested to CECE that they provide intentional outreach to BIS students related to co-op education, and on-campus work-integrated learning opportunities such as hack-a-thons. The College of Arts has increased its efforts to include BIS students in ARTS 380. Each semester since Summer 2022 there has been a steady increase in BIS students taking ARTS 380 (Practicum) to gain work related experience.
11. Strategic and Intentional Growth: Action: No explicit recommendation made	COMPLETE: The BIS program is now formally part of the College of Arts SEM planning. • Each faculty unit in the College of Arts has two-year course planning rotations published on their individual web pages. • The BIS was promoted at information events, orientation, and Open House. • The College of Arts, Manager of Operations and Planning monitors BIS enrollment and supports course offering adjustments to meet student needs, reduce waitlists, and remove bottle necks. • AIS has a new website that promotes the BIS. This site is still being further enhanced for 2024.
12. Provide On-line options for high enrollment BIS courses:	COMPLETE: High enrolled courses by BIS students have online options. The College of Arts, Manager of Operations and Planning monitors this closely.