

General Studies Diploma 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 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 GSD has been transitioned to the Arts Studies department. The department has been renamed Arts & Integrated Studies (AIS). The department coordinator time has been increased and GSD is now explicitly included in enrolment and budget planning.
2. Mandatory Advising <u>Action 2.1.</u> Require mandatory advising and pre-arrival supports for international students prior to entry to the program. Note: Mandatory advising is not a direction the UFV Academic Advising considered effective. As a result, this recommendation falls outside of scope of the review. <u>Action 2.2.</u> That a faculty advisor be seconded for a two-year period to advise students starting 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. In addition, AIS faculty, working closing with UFV International have revised UNIV 101 (now called AIS 101). This course will promote the importance of advising. AIS is working closely with International on pre-arrival programming. Student engagement with these supports will continue to be monitored. IGSPC recommended making AIS 101 more explicit in the GSD requirements. This was approved by the College of Arts Council January 2024.
3. Expand Partnership Agreements & Explore Provincial Outcome Based Articulation Agreements. <u>Action 3.1.</u> Full-time Director to expand partnership agreements and to explore options for a provincial outcome- based articulation agreement. <u>Action 3.2.</u> The Director work closely Vice-Provost office continue to promote the program as an optimal destination for partnerships and transfers.	COMPLETE: An academic support faculty position has been created that serves the GSD. This position is the External Liaison Coordinator, College of Arts. Working with UFV’s Vice-Provost Office and the Articulation Team, an inventory of active and generative partnerships has been completed. A new SharePoint system has been created to process, track and approve partnership agreements. UFV’s Articulation was consulted and provided feedback into the design and function of the new system. The External Liaison Coordinator attended BCCAT’s annual Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) to ensure articulation processes for the GSD are aligned with promising practices. Outcome-based articulation agreements are still in the very early discovery stage at the provincial level. The coordinator will remain engaged in this discussion

	– but there are no opportunities for action on this item at this time.
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4. Revise Terms of Reference to Include EDI, & TLC for Indigenization and Internationalization.	
<u>Action 4.</u> That the Terms of Reference for an External Review committee and a curriculum committee include representation with expertise in EDI, Indigenization, and Internationalization.	COMPLETE: The IGSPC Terms of Reference were updated in 2022 and put into effect for Fall 2023. The committee has returning and new members. The committee meets monthly. The new IGSPC is advisory, and the GSD curriculum approvals are now facilitated through university processes [i.e., College of Arts Council (CAC), Curriculum Committee (CACC), and the University Education Council (UEC)]. Representation expertise for EDI and TLC is found within CAC, CACC and UEC. This expertise now supports the GSD. The Dean is currently exploring creating a curriculum committee under the AIS department and strategies to gather feedback from employers and community members.
5. Develop UNIV 200 with a Focus on EDI and Integration into and Agency with Canada for International Students.	
<u>Action 5.</u> That the director work with the faculty teaching UNIV 101 to articulate learning outcomes to be achieved by a core course to be required for all GSD students. The course (or additional sections of ARTS 299 if it is decided that substantial overlaps exist) will be integrated in the Enrolment Plan for 2023-24 following curricular approval. Note: the reviewers comment about ARTS 299 is out of context for the purpose and scope of this course. Therefore ARTS 299 is not being considered as part of the solution to supporting this recommendation.	IN PROGRESS: Concepts of EDI are infused into the majority of College of Arts courses and as a result, CoA faculty recommend that one singular course alone will not achieve this recommendation. Instead UNIV 101 (now AIS 101) and ARTS 299 (now AIS 299) have been revised to include EDI and self-agency for international students as part of the courses. Further program revisions to make explicit course requirements for the GSD are in progress. Sept 2024 will see the first phase of program revisions with the new UNIV 101/AIS 101 and ARTS 299/AIS 299, along with the addition of Associate Certificates aimed at improving workplace readiness for GSD students. However, additional consultation is underway so that more significant program revisions can be developed. A project plan is currently being developed to facilitate this work.

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6. Program Name <u>Action 6.1.</u> That the director consults with administrators of similar programs in BC and the Yukon. <u>Action 6.2.</u> That the director, in consultation with IGSPC, host a session with internal stakeholders	ON HOLD: Since the program review, the demographics of the GSD students and their individual needs have grown more complex. While a name change is recognized as a question to explore, priority will be given to phase two of curriculum revisions to better support students who currently enrol in the GSD. It is recognized that the name General Studies is not as attractive to international students as a more explicit name would be. However, to facilitate a name change that reflects the outcomes of the diploma – the diploma needs to be significantly revised first.
7. Outcomes-based Admission Criteria for GSD Graduates Laddering into Other UFV Degree Programs. No Explicit Action Item Provided	ON HOLD: It is recognized that this recommendation has value. However, the emphasis for now is on ensuring, through program revisions, that GSD required courses transfer and ladder into the majority of UFV degree programs.

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8. Initiate Discussion Through BCCAT to Establish a Provincial Articulated Transfer Agreement	
<u>Action 8.</u> That the Vice-Provost considers the value and feasibility of this recommendation	ON HOLD: Due to extenuating circumstances, the Vice-Provost has had other priorities. There has been no indication from BCCAT that this is a provincial priority and currently the AIS faculty do not have the capacity to take a lead role in trying to fuel this discussion.
9. UFV to Initiate Data on Graduate Mobility	
<u>Action 9.</u> That the data points be provided to the Dean of Arts who will work with Institutional Research and Planning to assess feasibility of this recommendation.	COMPLETE: While it is recognized that such data would be valuable, organizing this form of data collection for GSD students is a major undertaking that CoA does not have the resources to take on at this time. The AIS department will use data available on the new Institutional Research dashboard and CoA will continue to collect success and transition stories through its ArtsWorx's project.
10. Create a Physical Space for Students	
<u>Action 10.1.</u> No explicit recommendation made	COMPLETE: The collaborative space in the renovated 3 rd floor of building D is seeing a steady increase in student utilization. Starting in January 2024 AIS will be planning a variety of 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 and contribute to event planning and hosting.
11. International Recruiters to Market the Program	
<u>Action 11.1.</u> Explore with International Recruitment how to target market the program	COMPLETE: The international recruitment into the GSD has exploded and while encouraging from an enrolment/budget point of view, servicing the students well requires dedicated attention. The CoA Associate Dean of Students and the Communication Strategist meet with the UFV recruiters to keep them informed about GSD, and the Dean of Arts is working to diversify international markets and improve enrolment projection planning.

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12. Market the GSD as Having Value to Domestic Students as a Foundation to Go Anywhere	
<u>Action 12.1</u> That the program administrator works with Recruitment to identify appropriate messaging that highlights the value of the program to a domestic audience.	ON GOING: AIS participated in UFV's Open House and Orientation events. The CoA Communication Strategies has provided marketing materials to the Office of Future Students. A new website is being designed. As curriculum revisions are made to better support the "go anywhere" concept, additional marketing efforts to domestic students will be included. Robust pathway planning is part of the work being done as part of major program revisions and this will be the driver in messaging "go anywhere".
13. EDI Based training for the staff and advisors who serve GSD students should be developed and employed	
<u>Action 13.1</u> That the program administrator continues to be attentive to improving the experience of Indigenous and international students in the GSD, and that an account of concrete actions taken to this effect be included in the mid-cycle report.	ON GOING: EDI training is an ongoing process and if done with intention will continue to be an ongoing transformative call to action for all staff and advisors. Examples of "concrete" actions taken are: 1. Copies of BCCampus's Pulling Together have been distributed to advisors, and staff. 2. Academic Advisors completed one of the following: Advisors were asked to complete one of the following courses as part of their annual growth plans. - UFV's Decolonizing Self; indigenizing the Academy: https://blogs.ufv.ca/ufv-at-work/files/2020/05/Self-Enroll-Instructions-Decolonizing-the-self-Indigenizing-the-Academy-final.pdf OR Indigenous Canada- Alberta University. https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada 3. The Dean's office staff completed the UBC's anti-racism training program https://pdce.educ.ubc.ca/anti-racism-awareness/ 4. Staff are included in discussion about the Brampton Charter and ways UFV can learn from it. 5. Staff are engaged in the Building Community Across Cultures community of practice and will be travelling to India for an immersive education experience in February 2024. 6. Individual staff and advisors continue to attend workshops, and/or do self-development through readings, etc.