

Progress Report on March 2020 Dean's Summary of the Global Development Studies (GDS) Program Review

Dr. Jacqueline Nolte, April 7, 2020

The GDS Program Review took place in 2019, the first time a review has taken place since the inception of the GDS degree in 2013 and since the introduction of a GDS minor and extended minor in 2018. GDS currently has 46 students registered in its programs and GDS graduates have been amongst the finest academic citizens that UFV graduates.

The reviewers commented positively on the overall quality of the GDS program, noting its attractiveness to students, and suggested that with "modest investment" the program could grow substantially. The Program Reviewers commended faculty who teach into the program, particularly those who offer the practicum component.

The focus of the review could have dealt more with the substance of curriculum content. Instead, the challenges of administering an interdisciplinary program overshadowed the former, notwithstanding the interrelationship of the

Action 2: The Chair will collaborate with fellow heads to offer required courses, and will report the results of this collaboration to the Dean's office in a timely manner, including instances where collaboration has been unsuccessful. The GDS Chair has requested that the Dean ask departments to report periodically on their contributions to multidisciplinary programs, which will be done.

programs has been completed. These will contribute to the curriculum review discussed under Recommendation 1. The Dean has asked that the program committee continue to seek guidance from the ADS.

Progress: As above, our work in coordinating course scheduling with other departments was interrupted by the COVID pandemic, but will resume as we return to campus and after a new program assistant is hired. We look forward to the commencement of college-level discussisud

Recommendation 7: Include the Program Chair of GDS in meetings in the College of Arts.

Action: This is an error on the part of the reviewers. The chair has equal voice at all heads and chair meetings with the Dean.

Progress: Agreed.

Recommendation 8: Establish GDS as a stand-alone department with core GDS members, core funding for required

Recommendation 9: Appoint an additional core GDS faculty member

Action: Done

Progress: We are very happy with the appointment of a new full-time, permanent GDS faculty member and with the cross-appointment of two more UFV faculty members to GDS. In 2020 an LAS hiring was not successfully completed and a half-position in LAS remained unfilled. It was to have been cross-appointed with Sociology or MACS. We would like to request that this position be re-opened as a GDS/LAS cross-appointment. For GDS, this would help to globalize our program, which, in recent years due to faculty retirements has come to focus more on Africa and South Asia.

Recommendation 10: Develop faculty led protocols for efficient scheduling of courses across departments and programs.

Action: The Department Chair's role is to exercise initiative with respect to working with other heads and, where this is unsuccessful, to bring forward specific requests to the Dean's office. The Dean's office does not coordinate timetabling for specific programs; however, the Deans office can help when specific issues are brought to the Dean's attention.

Progress: See the discussion above under Recommendations 2 and 3. Our work on collaborating with other departments to avoid course scheduling conflicts was interrupted by the COVID pandemic. It will resume as we return to campus and a new program assistant is hired. We will also attempt to alleviate the problem by broadening or streamlining the range of courses identified as electives for GDS students. When we run into persistent problems, we may suggest procedural solutions to the dean.

Recommendation 11: Improve access to administrative support

Action:

Appendix 2 - GDS Practicum Guidelines Draft

1. Practicums should be started after the completion of the third year of the GDS program. This helps to ensure that students will receive the greatest possible amount of learning from the practicum experience and also that the workplace hosts will be most satisfied with the students they supervise.
2. Students should have completed the GDS language requirement before beginning the practicum. This is obviously critical if the practicum is conducted in the language studied for the language requirement. However, even if the language requirement is independent from the practicum, it is not reasonable for students to expect to be able to complete the language requirement in the 1 year (30 credits) left after the completion of the practicum. Such expectations are likely to delay students' graduations.
3. Practicum placements should be carefully selected to reflect individual students' capabilities and interests and to improve their chances of success in the practicum and to improve their career prospects.
4. Both practicum students and practicum placements must be approved by a committee comprising at least 3 GDS faculty members.
5. The work required for a practicum shall not include proselytization.
6. Students should receive active supervision (academic and workplace) throughout the practicum.
7. Practicum students should have the opportunity to complete challenging work that will develop their skills. Some of this work should