

Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

Program:	Public Administration	
Degrees Offered:	MPA	
Approved Fields:		
External Consultants:	Mel Cappe, Professor University of Toronto	Gregory Marchildon, Professor University of Regina
Internal Reviewers:	Gregory Kopp, Associate Dean Faculty of Engineering	Dan Cameron, PhD candidate Neuroscience
Date of Site Visit:	March 9-10, 2015	
Evaluation:	<i>Good Quality</i>	
Approved by:	<i>SUPR-G on September 14, 2015</i> <i>SCAPA on September 30, 2015</i>	

Executive Summary

The External Consultants viewed the program positively, noting that it fills a “niche that is otherwise void in Canada.” They felt that the learning outcomes are well laid out, with a curriculum that strikes an appropriate balance between the theoretical and applied such that the learning outcomes are achieved. They found that the curriculum is appropriate on the whole, and were impressed with the use of a research report as a capstone to the program, which “combine[s] research and theory with experience and practice.” This unique aspect, which the alumni found to be a highlight, poses some resource challenges in its delivery and may become unsustainable. The External Consultants found that the quality of students entering the program is high and that the mix of part-time with full-time students is a particular strength. The quality of the faculty is viewed as being excellent, with “two of the most outstanding local government scholars in Canada” along with a highly engaged group of part-time faculty. However, the External Consultants found “that current resources ... are inadequate” and that “the program is in danger of withering away.” Overall, the program is viewed as being of high quality, but that there are issues with resources that could affect its long-term viability.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- The program fills a unique and important niche in local government, which is otherwise void in Canada
- The curriculum, particularly the capstone research report that combines research and theory with experience and practice
- The mix of part-time and full-time students, who bring varied backgrounds that enrich the academic and student experience
- Committed and highly-regarded faculty members

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement:

- A number of students criticized the economics course. This course is viewed as important to the curriculum, so its content and delivery should be re-visited.
- Current faculty are overburdened with research project supervision. The research project is viewed as a unique strength in the program, so it should not be eliminated, but work load issues associated with supervision should be re-examined.

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
Faculty workload on research project supervision	Program Director		current
Current complement of full-time faculty is “inadequate”.	Chair, Dean		On-going