

External Review of the Cultural, Social and Political Thought (CSPT) Program

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Executive Summary

The CSP, with its MA and PhD Concentration programs, is a remarkable academic profile. The administrator, a "jewel in the crown" of the University of Victoria, forged over 33 years, is reflected in its ability to reach beyond and beyond. Its commitment to interdisciplinarity is a university of the future. Drawing as it does from a diverse intellectual conversation not only at the University of Victoria, there are perhaps only two or three graduate programs of the kinds of excitement and interest the programs can be considered very much part of the University of Victoria and international contribution to the academy. The reviewers were univocal in their recognition of the value that the University of Victoria. The reviewers contend that the program is transformative. The rigour of its foundation courses is that is both dynamic and responsive to the changing world. The Candidacy Examinations and the Problématique demonstrate a commitment to forms of historical and contemporary

The reviewers contend that the MA and PhD programs are being an excellent and valuable graduate concentration. The aspects of the program, including how it functions, and how improvements or enhancements could be considered. (Faculty of Social Sciences) and FGS. We have in mind and FGS should consider in order to ensure that

We have provided some recommendations, which

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- 4) Consider restoring funding for two-year MAs. Currently, CSPT Conc MA students receive one year of funding. It is becoming rare for current MA students to remain at University of Victoria, choosing to pursue PhDs elsewhere. CSPT has been put in the position of streamlining their 2 year MA requirements to one year, but Sociology, for example, has retained its two-year MA. Meanwhile, English has chosen to pursue the one-year MA, and History has also embraced the non-thesis option. These discrepancies should be addressed.
- 5) CSPT has responded to this difficulty nimbly by creating a “summer theory school” and a capstone paper, but the reviewers feel that a second year of MA funding must be restored in order to protect the rigour and value of the program. The reviewers recognize that the revision of the MA could be retained, but that the two-year MA with thesis should remain part of its roster of offerings.
- 6) Consider providing stable, base funding to CSPT; currently, we understand that CSPT relies exclusively on discretionary funding;
- 7) Consider increasing CSPT’s funding; \$30,000/annum is regrettably insufficient, given a) how much the program contributes to the university and b) that its faculty complement has virtually doubled over the past nine years;
- 8) Create a specifically designated space for CSPT and its students