

External Review of the Faculty of Law
June 20-22, 2022

External Review Committee:

Dr. Robert Leckey – McGill University
Dr. Gemma Smyth – University of Windsor
Dr. Brenda Gunn – University of Manitoba
Dr. Matt Murphy – University of Victoria

Executive Summary

Thank you for the opportunity to conduct an external review of the Faculty of Law (“Faculty”) at the University of Victoria (“University”). The review team (“Committee”) was impressed by the Faculty’s commitment to this process. We hope our comments help in strengthening an impressive institution with high-quality programs.

As we heard repeatedly, the Faculty is a “small faculty doing big things”. Indeed, some faculty members are interested in the Faculty’s benchmarking itself at a global rather than national level. We heard positive reflections about the student body, which is perceived to be bright and engaged. Faculty and staff members express genuine desire to engage with one another. Many seem to love working at the Faculty, even calling it “the best place in the world to work”. At the outset, we want to particularly recognize and applaud the ground-breaking work in launching the joint JD/JID program. The first of its kind in the world, this program promises to contribute significantly to the development of new settler–Indigenous relations in Canada and beyond.

Development and plans of the Academic Unit

There seems to be an appetite for collective conversation, healing a

2. Expand professorial capacity for offering key pieces of the flagship programs.
3. Explore potential for ILRU to contribute to capacity building and secure appropriate resources.
4. Review recommendations from 2019 for renewal of the JD curriculum.
5. Address experience of teaching overwork.
6. Review administrative work, in the light of the perception it is heavy and the avowed commitment to robust collegial self-governance.
7. Develop an EDI strategy, possibly in consultation and/or collaboration with University plans, and address race-, gender- and anti-Indigenous discrimination and harassment in the classroom.
8. Strengthen the Faculty's internal and external communications.
9. Coordinate and clarify efforts to recruit and support a diverse student body for all programs, and to ensure a discrimination-free environment.
10. Review the graduate programs.
11. Clarify the Faculty's aspirations for research, the place of external funding, and the role of "unconventional" research activity such as reports, practice, law reform, and advocacy.
12. Review operations of Student Services.