

RESPONSE TO THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE CAPPACCREDITATION  
REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) FOR THE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

From: Andrew Sancton, Director of the Local Government Program, March, 2009

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We are grateful for the thoughtful and comprehensive analysis provided by the appraisers and are very pleased that the ARC is unanimously recommending our accreditation by CAPPACCREDITATION for the full term of seven years. ARC describes our MPA as “a good program with a fine record of achievement and a well-deserved reputation.”

We appreciate the advice we have received about the new competitive environment for MPA programs. The fact remains that we are the only program in Ontario that is especially designed for the needs of part-time students who are practicing local-government managers. Our academic expertise in local government is second to none. We believe that the challenges posed by the new programs are more relevant to our capacity to attract full-time students who have recently received undergraduate degrees. We undertake to review our capacity both to recruit such highly qualified undergraduates and to offer them a wider selection of courses related to public administration.

As the ARC itself reports, the MPA “enjoys the support of the department of Political Science.” Consequently, we do not see any particular “challenges” deriving from its location within Political Science. However, as the ARC recommends, we have already launched new efforts to extend our “links with other departments and programs within the Social Science faculty.”

With respect to the other comments and suggestions, we shall consider them all carefully. However, in current economic conditions we do not believe it is realistic to recommend that tuition fees be increased or to expect that we should receive additional funding for administrative support.