The Canadian Studies Program is one the College of Arts & Sciences’ most successful interdisciplinary programs. Although it is a small program with only two faculty members (the director and a recently appointed temporary instructor) and three staff persons (one of whom is part-time), it makes substantial contributions to the University’s teaching, research, and service mission. The program not only contributes to general education through its popular Introduction to Canadian Studies course, but it has nurtured the growth of a rich array of courses in a variety of departments that explore aspects of Canadian history, culture, society, and politics. These, combined with extensive programming about Canada offered through lectures, films, readings, and symposia and a recently developed exchange program with the University of Guelph, offer students and other members of the BGSU community opportunities to understand a fascinating nation. Through publication of the *American Review of Canadian Studies*—a highly regarded scholarly journal—and assistance it provides faculty in securing external support for research about Canada, the program also makes significant contributions to research. Moreover, it supports an ambitious outreach program that educates members of the community about Canada and provides Ohio businesses with information that better positions them for success in the Canadian market.

The Program Review Committee’s final report recognizes the program’s many accomplishments and makes several recommendations designed to help the program clarify its complex mission, better serve its many constituencies, and assure continued success in achieving its objectives.

Dr. Mark Kasoff offers a detailed response to the PRC’s report, pointing out a number of factual errors. I thank him for taking the time to correct the record. He also raises questions the committee’s recommendations, some of which I share and some of which may rest on a misunderstanding of those recommendations.

With the following stipulations, I accept the recommendations contained in the PRC’s report:

I do not believe a formal review of the advisory committee’s role and membership is necessary at this time. As Dr. Kasoff notes in his response, the Canadian Studies Advisory Committee currently includes faculty from the College of Business Administration. As the individual responsible for appointing members to serve on the committee, I shall continue to work with Dr. Kasoff to assure that the advisory committee includes faculty who have the expertise, interests, and commitment to advance the program’s multifaceted mission, including its outreach to the business community.
I know from frequent discussions with Dr. Kasoff that he has a clear grasp of his program’s multifaceted mission and the interrelationships among its teaching, research, and service components. However, I agree with the PRC that he should work with his advisory committee to develop a formal statement that articulates to the community the program’s complex mission and the relationships among its several parts. I will meet with Dr. Kasoff early in the fall semester to provide guidance for developing a formal mission statement.

With respect to the issue of assessment of outreach activities, Dr. Kasoff notes that the program has developed a variety of techniques to assess the response of audiences and the effectiveness of programming. I applaud him and his staff for generating data that has enabled them consistently to improve programming. Development of a formal mission statement will, I trust, enable the director and his advisory committee to move from evaluation of individual events to assessment of the effectiveness of the entire outreach program in achieving the program’s mission. While I do not prescribe the form this assessment should take—leaving that to Dr. Kasoff and his advisory committee—I believe that the triennial reviews of the program conducted by the advisory committee and the College are the appropriate point at which to consider the overall effectiveness of outreach activities in helping the program fulfill its mission.

Dr. Kasoff expresses disappointment that PRC did not recommend that the University commit additional resources to Canadian Studies and especially that it failed to recommend that the University develop a plan to take responsibility for salaries of his two full-time staff members. Given the current fiscal environment and the hiring freeze, I believe PRC acted prudently. However, I am mindful of the program’s resource needs and will continue to work with Dr. Kasoff to find creative ways to provide resources, especially those that serve the program’s instructional and research missions.

With respect to external support, I commend Dr. Kasoff for his energy in pursuing grants and private support. I will direct Dr. Elizabeth Cole, Associate Dean for College Advancement, to meet with Dr. Kasoff this fall to explore ways the program can build a stronger relationship with the Development Office. I will also request that Dr. Kasoff discuss external funding opportunities with his advisory committee and report to me by May 1, 2004. His report should indicate the best opportunities for external support, how the program might pursue them, and how the College can assist.

The College of Arts & Sciences is mindful of the program’s need for more ample and visible space. During the past summer we identified space that we believed would better serve the program’s needs. Ultimately, however, it proved unsatisfactory. While office space is very tight on central campus, we
will continue to work with Dr. Kasoff and his staff to locate more suitable space.

As program review indicates, the Canadian Studies Program is a strong interdisciplinary program that makes valuable contributions to the University’s teaching, research, and service mission that are greater than its small size would suggest. I look forward to working with Dr. Kasoff and his staff to pursue the PRC’s recommendations and find ways to help the program grow in strength.

Donald G. Nieman, Dean

Date

Concurred:

John W. Folkins, Provost

Date