

Academic Program Review Summary of Review

Department: School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education

Faculty: Education

Date of Report: June 2009

The APRC identified the School as a strong unit, with outstanding faculty and students and a high level of research productivity. The Committee found that the School has built a very good base for future growth and contribution to the University in general, as well as the external community. While the School has had a history of adapting well to change over the years, the change in post-secondary environment in the province will require further adaptations and the APRC advises that the School must anticipate them in a proactive manner.

It was clear to the APRC that all the undergraduate programs offered by the School were of high quality with the curricular content being generally progressive and reflective of the current scholarship in academic literature and the vital research programs of the faculty members. The graduate programs are popular and well known for their quality with the Coaching Masters standing out for its unique delivery model. It is apparent that the students' experience is very positive. Students remarked the excellent quality of teaching, on the application of expertise and the tremendous amount of time and effort faculty put into teaching. The APRC commends faculty for their teaching grants (2 CRC and a number of externally funded by NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR and non-Tri-Council funding) which have resulted in renovated office and laboratory space and facilities for both faculty and graduate student research. The APRC makes a number of recommendations they suggest will help move the School to the top tier in BC and to ensure comparability to like institutions across the country.

With respect to the School's programs and curriculum, the APRC recommends that faculty engage in a curriculum review of each program to determine core courses and course options that may be relevant and viable for each program. In doing so, consideration should be given to establishing learning outcomes for each course and upon completion of each program. The end result should also reinforce content and skill, reduce content redundancy and maximize success in cooperative education experiences. In addition, the APRC suggests that the School consider CCUPKA (Council of Canadian University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators) Accreditation, that PAC courses be examined for relevance according to the BC Physical Education Curriculum with consideration given to the model, curricular revisions and budgetary advantages, that the Masters program have specific foci and the Ph.D. program be formalized with areas of specialization.

The APRC further recommends that the School engage in a robust review of administrative policies and practices including: a review of administrative roles and functions of faculty and staff with a view to enhancing efficiencies; development of a standardized and transparent workload formula and budget process; and create a space allocation committee to advise the Chair on issues of space allocation and utilization.

The APRC identified a number of Strategic Opportunities for the School such as exploring the addition of a professional program such as Physiotherapy, enhancing community outreach (also within the university community) and engagement and strategizing ways in which the School can pursue their work internationally or globally in accordance with the recent UVic mandate.

Finally, the APRC strongly recommends that the School develop a Strategic Plan and the means through which it will be implemented.

The Dean and Provost congratulate the School on completing their review with affirmation from the APRC that the School offers students with quality learning opportunities at all levels. The Dean advised that the School is working on many of the APRC's recommendations with some already acted upon and others in progress and awaiting further discussion with various university units such as other faculties and divisions and executive offices.

With respect to accreditation with the CCUPEKA, the School is now in a position to proceed with this venture as they required a faculty resource in biomechanics, the search for which is currently underway. The School has since the report, formalized its Ph.D. program (recently receiving Senate approval), selected a new Director who is well equipped to will lead the School into the next phase of its development, and established a Strategic Planning Process within the unit.

The Provost encourages the School to continue to consider the recommendations of the APRC and is open to discussions which may assist the unit in achieving the goals set out by the recommendations. The ideal starting point for both the School and the Faculty would be a detailed Strategic Plan.