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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	July 25, 2012
FROM	Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: External Review Update for the Department of Psychology (SCUP 12-23)		

At its July 11, 2012 meeting SCUP reviewed the External Review Update Report for the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The report is attached for the information of Senate.

encl.

c: B. Krane



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Jon Driver, Chair, SCUP
FROM Bill Krane, Associate Vice-President,
Academic and Associate Provost
CC D. Read and J. Craig
RE: External Review Update for the Department of Psychology

DATE June 28, 2012
PAGES 1/1



The External Review of the Department of Psychology was undertaken in April 2008. According to the procedures established by SCUP, the Department is required to submit an update describing its progress in implementing Senate's recommendations, which were derived from the External Review report, in the fourth year following the start of the External Review process. Please find attached this update, together with a copy of the recommendations approved by Senate for action.

Based on this midterm report, my assessment is that the Department has made substantial progress toward implementing Senate's recommendations, within the constraints imposed by its budget.

DR. J. DON READ, CHAIR
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JUN 01 2012

Vice President
ACADEMIC

May 22, 2012

Mr. Glynn Nichols, Director
Academic Planning and Budgeting

RE: External Review Update for the Department of Psychology

Dear Mr. Nicholls:

I am pleased to provide a brief summary of the measures taken by the Department of Psychology in response to the 2008 recommendations of our External Review, approved by Senate. The Department previously responded to the Review on January 28, 2009 with a report providing corrections to comments made within the Review and further justification of our program choices at that time.

This note is organized in the same manner as your request. I have opted to use point form for many of the changes to save space. Overall, we have actually made a great many changes in all four areas of Programmes, Governance, Infrastructure, and Research. We found the External Review document to be a useful guideline over the last three years.

1. Programmes

1.1 Undergraduate Programme

- To increase our offerings we have (i) added distance course options and we have promoted the enrollment in distance courses with both students and faculty. (ii) We have also streamlined our prereq structure for PSYC 100 and PSYC 102 to allow students to take second-year courses earlier. (iii) We have eliminated some gateway requirements (100 and 102 no longer have minimum grade requirements. (iv) We have eliminated some barriers to declaration of Psychology as a major, specifically the History of Psychology has been removed as a prereq for declaration such that students can declare earlier and access courses with a higher priority. (v) We have added another popular course, Psychology of Personality. Finally, it is worth noting that, given the reduced TA budget, we are unable to offer additional space in our mandatory W courses (PSYC 201, PSYC 300).
- As for learning outcomes, we are considering our options in the light of the ongoing university-wide initiatives on this topic. However, our course syllabi have always provided students with a description of our expectations in the course and the manner by which those would be assessed.
- As to faculty workload on W courses, as noted above, the reduced TA budget severely limits the numbers of students we may handle. We have distributed the lower level W course (201) to more than one faculty member but that is a temporary fix because the position is held by a Limited Term person.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

- As to indices of programme quality and teaching excellence, we have developed our own departmental Teaching Award to highlight both our concern and our successes. As to programme quality, our courses are fully articulated within the BC system and the very high numbers of our Honours and regular students who have graduated is publicly available. Again, with the learning outcome initiative underway, we are awaiting the template that will be available for these purposes.

1.2 Graduate Programmes

- Regarding offers to grad students, our financial offers to incoming students are in line with other Canadian institutions. For example, this year we were able to offer \$30,000 in Special Graduate Student Entrance Scholarships funds to attract strong students.
- As for the admissions process, we welcome the implementation of an online graduate admissions process undertaken by the Dean of Graduate Studies. This will greatly streamline admissions and enable students to monitor their progress through the application process. We have also substantially improved our website to better reflect current programs and choices to graduate student applicants.
- As you may know, our Clinical Psychology program is accredited by both the Canadian and American Psychological Associations and, therefore it is comparable to others. The Experimental Program also attracts many very good students who go on to successful careers.
- As for programs with premium fees, we have previously considered the option for Diplomates in Psychology (Psy.D) but do not believe they will fit into the “scientist-practitioner” model we have adopted. No others have been considered to date.

2. Governance

- We have restructured our department to recognize Clinical Science as the sixth distinct area and have, with that reorganization, developed stronger connections between experimental and clinical students and faculty.
- We have also deconstructed the major planning committee in the department to allow for two additional separate committees, one for undergraduate and the other for graduate programs. Doing so has increased the participation rate substantially (an additional 12 committee memberships).
- With the appointment of a new Chair and the structural reorganization, we believe that the communication within the Department and the Dean has been improved. The Department Bylaws have also been revised, allowing for a greater number of recognized roles within the Department.

3. Infrastructure

- Two additional faculty members have been added as of September 2012, and each will receive independent and customized research space. To do so, we have inventoried and repurposed a number of spaces within our control.

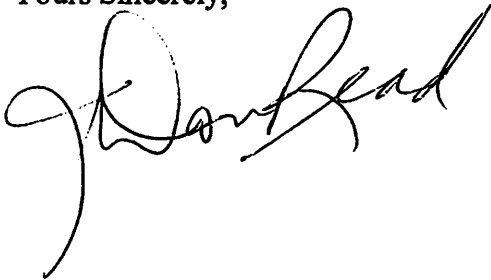
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4. Research

- We have benefitted from the FASS Research Grant facilitator (Ms. Bev Neufeld) and ensured that our eligible faculty members continue to make submissions to NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR agencies. The goal of 75% funding is some distance away at this point.
- A new 3-year plan, including Faculty Renewal, will be submitted to the Dean in September, 2012, as we did successfully in 2011.
- Our relationship with Health Science has not received additional attention recently although members of our department do hold collaborative research grants that include Health Sciences faculty members. The Department encourages faculty to look outside FASS for possible research in initiatives.

I trust this longer-than-intended letter is helpful to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Don Read". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

J. Don Read
Chair of Psychology

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Don Read, Chair, Psychology **DATE** April 30, 2012
FROM Glynn Nicholls, Director, Academic Planning and Budgeting **PAGES** 1/2
CC John Craig, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
RE: External Review Update for the Department of Psychology

In 2004 the Senate Committee on University Priorities endorsed procedures for reviewing a department's progress in implementing the recommendations approved by Senate as a consequence of the previous external review (which takes place normally once every seven years). The last review of your Department occurred in April 2008. This is to advise you that the External Review Update for the Department of Psychology is due at this time.

On May 11, 2009 Senate approved the following recommendations:

1. Programmes**1.1 Undergraduate Programme**

- Continue to seek ways of offering courses more often to ensure students are able to complete both introductory and advanced courses within a reasonable amount of time.
- Consider establishing learning outcomes for the undergraduate programme and determine appropriate course structures and instructional formats to support these outcomes within the fiscal resources of the Department.
- Review the workload of faculty associated with the delivery of writing intensive courses.
- Develop objective and publicly accessible indices of course and programme quality and teaching excellence.

1.2 Graduate Programme

- Strive to make competitive financial offers to prospective graduate students.
- Continue to improve the application and admission process by enhancing communication between the Department and graduate students and by better understanding and serving student choices and preferences.
- Comparatively review the course requirements against other clinical and experimental psychology programmes within Canada.
- Review possible programme options that could attract premium fees.

2. Governance

- Consider developing an administrative model that includes a distinct Clinical Area and that facilitates interaction across all areas, particularly between clinical and experimental researchers.
- Continue to seek ways of encouraging wider participation of faculty members in the governance of the Department.
- Ensure the lines of communication between the Department and the Chair, the Department and the Dean's office and the Department and the students are open and clear.

3. Infrastructure

- Continue to monitor the space requirements of the Department and develop contingency plans which accommodate the future expansion of research programmes.

4. Research

- Continue to work with the Dean's office to facilitate grant applications and research support; pursue externally funded research opportunities and set the goal at 75% of funding from tri-council agencies.
- Work with the Dean to develop clear faculty renewal goals 2010/11 for consideration by the Vice President Academic.
- Continue to build relationships with the Faculty of Health Science to develop joint research initiatives.

Please provide a **one to two page** progress report by Friday, May 25, 2012 on the actions that your Department has taken in response to the recommendations approved by Senate on May 11, 2009.

Please contact me at 26702, g nicholl@sfu.ca or Bal Basi at 27676, bbasi@sfu.ca if you have any questions or concerns regarding the external review update process.

Thank you.