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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	February 12, 2014
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 School of Criminology (SCUP 14-03)		

At its February 5, 2014 meeting, SCUP reviewed the External Review Update Report for the School of Criminology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The report is attached for the information of Senate.

c: G. Myers



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Jon Driver, Chair, SCUP
FROM Gord Myers, Associate Vice-President,
Academic
CC N. Boyd and J. Craig
RE: External Review Update for the School of Criminology

DATE January 20, 2014

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The External Review of the School of Criminology was undertaken in April 2009. According to the procedures established by SCUP, the Unit is required to submit an update describing its progress in implementing the Action Plan, which was 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 Action Plan approved by Senate.

Based on this midterm report, my assessment is that the School of Criminology has made substantial progress toward implementing the Action Plan.

MEMO
School of Criminology

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ATTENTION Dr. Glynn Nicholls, Director: Academic Planning
and Budgeting

TEL

FROM Neil Boyd, Director, School of Criminology

RE External Review Update / School of Criminology

DATE January 2, 2014

TIME 12:27PM

As requested by Bal Basi, I am attaching the School of Criminology's progress report, December, 2013, with respect to actions that the School has taken, in accordance with the Action Plan, approved by Senate in 2010.



External Review Recommendation	Action Taken
1. To address accessibility issues, reduce the number of undergraduate courses with tutorials in order to increase enrollments in these courses.	Crim 101 (Introduction to Criminology) modified to employ e-clickers commencing in the fall of 2010. Following this, the e-tutorial model was employed in Crim 104 and Crim 131.
2. To address accessibility issues, consider expanding the number of undergraduate courses offered on-line, as long as the current quality of the on-line offerings can be maintained.	Since the external review, new courses added to our on-line offerings include: Crim 210 Law, Youth & Young Offenders Crim 417 Introduction to Crime and Intelligence Analysis Crim 431 Comparative Justice Systems Crim 455 Advanced Issues in Policing Crim 458 Community Policing Crim 480 CyberCrime and Computer Forensics Additional spaces have been allocated to pre-existing CODE courses. In 2009-10 there were 2557 student enrollments in Criminology CODE courses. This has increased to 2917 students enrolled in 58 sections of Criminology CODE courses in 2012-13.
3. Reduce the number of credit hours required for an honours degree in criminology; reduce the number of credit hours required before entering the honours program.	Although the university has recently reduced the minimum number of credit hours required for the completion of honours degrees, the School remains committed to the format and credit hours required for the existing honours program.
4. Do not add additional courses to the undergraduate curriculum unless and until some of the current offerings are dropped.	At present, new courses are only added to our course offerings once courses in the existing list of offerings that are no longer being offered are identified and deleted.
5. Increase the coverage of more critical and more contemporary theoretical perspectives in theory courses and in other courses, where appropriate.	This is being done in a variety of courses. Crim 203 (Historical Reactions to Crime and Deviance) is being revived and taught with a 50/50 weighting on critical/mainstream approaches. Critical theory is also now incorporated in a wide range of undergraduate course offerings. The School has also recently recruited a new Assistant Professor who is expected to add to the critical and contemporary theory content in the program.

6. Develop the theoretical content of new courses, particularly those in the area of cyber-crime	A new faculty member joined the faculty on a three year limited term appointment, teaching in the area of cybercrime. He has devoted considerable energy to reworking our cybercrime courses to become more theoretically driven, and structured more logically, using Crim 380 (Introduction to CyberCrime) as a foundation cybercrime course and Crim 480 (CyberCrime and Computer Forensics, a new course) and CRIM 481 (Advanced CyberCrime) as follow-up courses.
7. Replace the current pro-seminar (Crim 840-3) with a seminar focused on developing graduate students' professional skills, such as grant writing, conference presentations, and so forth	Crim 840-3 has been abolished. Rather than replacing it with a skills-based course, it has been replaced with a series of brown bag sessions in which graduate students present to fellow students and faculty prior to attending conferences. Overall credits required for the MA degree have remained constant.
8. Incorporate more contemporary critical theoretical perspectives into both theory courses and substantive courses at the graduate level.	While the precise content of the graduate theory courses varies from instructor to instructor, the basic graduate theory course Crim 800 (Theories of Crime I) currently incorporates contemporary critical theory, regardless of the course instructor. At times, Crim 801 (Theories of Crime II) is taught with a heavy emphasis on contemporary critical theory; at other times, it is taught to reflect contemporary mainstream criminology theories.
9. Clarify the purpose of and expectations for the M.A. practicum, without draining resources from the thesis-based programs or consider eliminating it.	This issue will be addressed at our spring 2014 retreat.
10. Think carefully before expanding the M.A. in Applied Legal Studies and establishing a coursework M.A. for criminal justice professionals	No expansion of the MA in Applied Legal Studies has occurred. No action has been taken towards creating a coursework-based M.A. for criminal justice professionals.
11. Work with the Associate VP Research to ensure that the new forensics facility lives up to its research, teaching and service potential	There is a very strong research and publication base, and the facility has recently received a 5 year renewal, along with a new faculty member in the department of Archaeology.

12. Engage in a strategic planning exercise to identify the focal areas for which the School wants to be known. Once decided upon, these focal areas should be communicated within and outside the University through the School's website and public documents.	The School is in the process of planning a faculty retreat for late April or early May 2014 to identify focal areas and chart out the future direction of the School.
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Dean's Comments

1. The School should engage in strategic and succession planning	As noted above, a retreat is scheduled for the spring of 2014 at which strategic planning will be addressed. The School has begun to address succession planning with a new Director, and new Associate Director. Plans are well under way to identify and prepare younger faculty to move into executive positions within the School over the next three to five years.
2. School members should seek to increase tri-council applications and publish more in peer-reviewed journals	This is ongoing; the School has an excellent publication record in peer-reviewed journals.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Rob Gordon, Director, Criminology
FROM Glynn Nicholls, Director, Academic
Planning and Budgeting
CC C. Craig, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
RE: External Review Update for the School of Criminology

DATE June 19, 2013
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In 2004 the Senate Committee on University Priorities endorsed procedures for reviewing a unit'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 the School occurred in April 2009. This is to advise you that the External Review Update for the School of Criminology is due at this time.

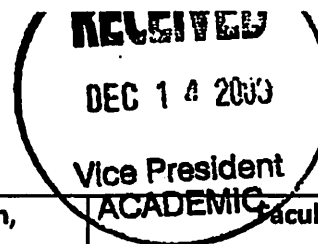
On February 8, 2010 Senate approved the attached Action Plan.

Please provide a **one to two page** progress report by Tuesday, September 3, 2013 on the actions that your School has taken in accordance with the Action Plan approved by Senate on February 8, 2010.

Please contact me at 26702, gnicholl@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.

EXTERNAL REVIEW – ACTION PLAN



Unit under review	Date of Review Site visit	Responsible Unit person,	Faculty Dean
School of Criminology	April 1st – 3 rd 2009	Dr. Robert Gordon, Director	Dr. Lesley Cormack

Note: It is not expected that every Recommendation made by the Review Team needs to be included here. The major thrusts of the Report should be identified. Some consolidation of the Recommendations may be possible while other Recommendations of lesser importance may be excluded.

External Review Recommendation	Unit's response notes/Comments (if any)	Action to be taken	Resource implications (if any)	Expected completion date
1. <i>To address accessibility issues, reduce the number of undergraduate courses with tutorials in order to increase enrollments in those courses.</i>	We agree with this recommendation.	The School has initiated an experimental program in our largest, lower division course – Criminology 101 (Introduction to Criminology) – which will see a major change in the delivery of tutorials to undergraduate students in that course. In the Fall of 2010, we will experiment with an e-tutorial system in the same course. If these experiments prove to be successful we will consider extending the initiatives to other lower division courses in the 2011/12 academic year.	TA budget reductions to be applied to the TI budget side to enable more sessional instructors to be hired.	Continuing initiative, no end date.
2. <i>To address accessibility issues, consider expanding the number of undergraduate courses offered on-line, as long as the current quality of the on-line offerings can be maintained.</i>	We agree with this recommendation.	The School is continuously adding new distance education courses, which usually include significant on-line components, to our already very large selection of such courses. The School is also constantly reviewing and updating our existing courses to maintain our long-standing reputation for excellence in Distance Education.	Additional funds for the development of distance education (on-line) courses, for instructional staff to offer these courses, and for the development of on-line components in existing courses.	Continuing initiative, no end date.

3. <i>Reduce the number of credit hours required for an honours degree in criminology; reduce the number of credit hours required before entering the honours program.</i>	The School does not agree with this recommendation.	The main course credit requirements for any honours degree awarded by the University are set by the University at 132 credits. While the External Review Team encourages the University to reduce the number of required units to something less than 132, we would not support this change.	No new resource implications.	Maintain the status quo.
4. <i>Do not add additional courses to the undergraduate curriculum unless and until some of the current offerings are dropped.</i>	The School does not agree with this recommendation.	We are growing, especially at the Surrey Campus, and have a total of 24 new undergraduate courses approved for the Surrey Campus alone. These courses are tied to the CRIM-ONE initiative, the new Police Studies program, and, shortly, the new Cyber Crime program. The removal of existing courses to “make way” for new courses will undermine our program initiatives across the board but particularly at the Burnaby Campus where new courses are developed to reflect new research program initiatives such as the research being conducted into sexual violence and aggression.	No new resource implications	Maintain the status quo
5. <i>Increase the coverage of more critical and more contemporary theoretical perspectives in theory courses and in other courses, where appropriate.</i>	The School agrees with this recommendation.	The Undergraduate Program Committee will continue to explore this issue. The recommendation is timely since we are already planning to introduce a new course – Gender, Law and the State – in the Spring Term (2010). Two of our existing, upper division “critical theory” courses are also currently under revision and should be ready by the Spring Term.	Relevant new courses will be added with the support of existing faculty members who are already developing the courses.	Sept. 2011

6. <i>Develop the theoretical content of new courses, particularly those in the area of cyber-crime</i>	The School agrees with this recommendation.	A new faculty member – Dr. Sara Smyth – joined us in September 2009, and is developing new courses in the cyber-crime area that will include significant theoretical components.	No resource implications	September 2010.
7. <i>Replace the current pro-seminar (Crim.840-3) with a seminar focused on developing graduate students' professional skills, such as grant writing, conference presentations, and so forth.</i>	The School agrees with this recommendation.	The School is already planning to replace Crim. 840 with substantive courses coupled with professional skills workshops and seminars.	No resource implications	September 2010.
8. <i>Incorporate more contemporary and critical theoretical perspectives into both theory courses and substantive courses at the graduate level.</i>	The School agrees with this recommendation.	The School has already initiated some changes to both a core graduate level theory course offered each Fall (Crim.800) and other courses offered in the Spring Term.	No resource implications.	Changes have been implemented.
9. <i>Clarify the purpose of and expectations for the M.A. practicum, without draining resources from the thesis-based programs or consider eliminating it.</i>	The School agrees with this recommendation	The School has already clarified a variety of issues affecting the M.A. by coursework, practicum and project paper, and improvements have been introduced. The option will be retained.	No resource implications.	Changes have been implemented.

10. <i>Think carefully before expanding the M.A. in Applied Legal Studies and establishing a coursework M.A. for criminal justice professionals.</i>	The School agrees with this recommendation.	No expansion of the MA in Applied Legal Studies is contemplated at this time. A coursework MA for criminal justice professionals is under review as part of the Police Studies program at the Surrey Campus.	No resource implications at this time.	No changes at this time.
11. <i>Work with the Associate VP Research to ensure that the new forensics facility lives up to its research, teaching and service potential.</i>	The School is happy to comply with this recommendation.	The Director of the School of Criminology has met with the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences to explore ways of supporting and enhancing the work of the Centre. A business plan will be developed for the Centre which will form the basis of discussions with the VP Research.	The business plan will identify the areas of start up and continuing funding required for the Centre to operate, and the potential sources of revenue.	Continuing initiative, no end date.
12. <i>Engage in a strategic planning exercise to identify the focal areas for which the School wants to be known. Once decided upon, these focal areas should be communicated within and outside the University through the School's website and public documents.</i>	The School has followed this recommendation.	The School followed this recommendation when completing the School's three year plan (submitted to the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences in mid September).	No resource implications	Continuing initiative.

The above action plan has been considered by the Unit under review and has been discussed and agreed to by the Dean.

Unit Leader (signed)		Date
Name <i>Robert M. Gordon</i>	Title Professor and Director.	December 7 th 2009

Dean's comments and endorsement of the Action Plan :

I agree with the school and the external review team on most of the recommendations, so here I will only highlight a few.

First, it is timely that the external team has suggested that the School engage in strategic and succession planning, something that we are all doing through the 3-year planning exercise. I know that the School will take this seriously and we have had and will have conversations about this planning process in the next few months. I am concerned, as the external team was, that Criminology not over-extend itself with new programs, even as I applaud its entrepreneurial and imaginative plans. I have every confidence that we can work these out, but especially in such tight financial times, we must be careful not to start or expand programs without a clear idea of where the resources will come from.

Second, I want to highlight the recommendations to increase tri-council applications and funding, and to publish more in peer-reviewed journals. Again, the School agrees with this recommendation and will be actively encouraging this in the coming years.

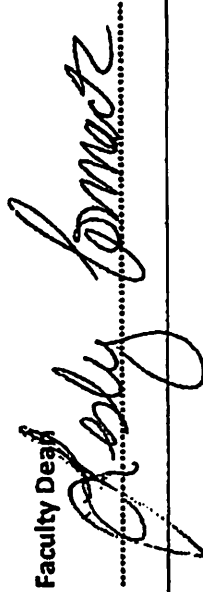
With regards to curriculum, the Dean's Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has been actively discussing the necessity to reexamine the use of tutorials, and Criminology is in the process of testing some alternate delivery models. My office has also informed departments and schools that they will not be allowed to bring forward new courses without deleting others.

I am in agreement with the external review team and disagreement with Criminology with regards to the number of credits necessary for an honours degree. I believe that SFU should join the majority of Canadian universities in requiring 120 credits for an honours degree, rather than 132. However, this is an issue better dealt with at a university level, rather than within the School of Criminology. I urge SFU to explore this possibility.

There are several institutional issues that are important in this report, areas that call for input from the Dean as well as the wider university.

1. The Forensics Centre. The Dean's office has been working with Criminology, Archaeology, and the Steering Committee of the Centre to establish a business plan, in order to argue effectively for added resources. I would urge the Steering Committee of the Forensics Centre to act on this as rapidly as possible, in order to move forward in a timely matter.
2. With regards to the relationship between Criminology and the Office of Research Services, I would propose that within the next year we hold a meeting among the parties in order to see whether there can be any meeting of the minds.
3. I agree completely with the external recommendation that the School of Criminology be declared a Schedule A unit. I have twice taken this request forward, but it has been turned down each time. I here ask that this issue be brought forward to the appropriate Senate committees so that we can have an open discussion of why Criminology is not eligible for this status

Faculty Dean



Date

10 Dec, 2009